



## TOWN OF PETERSHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

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### Report of the Petersham Advisory Finance Committee

FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025



### Selectboard Warrants for Special & Annual Town Meeting

FOR JUNE 3, 2024



## In Honor of Service to Country and Community

**Robert P. Goodfellow**, 80, longtime resident of Petersham, passed away on February 25, 2024. Bob was born in Boston on September 3, 1943, and grew up in Dedham and Needham, graduating Needham High School in 1961.

In 1963, Bob enlisted in the United States Army and served two tours of duty in Vietnam, earning a Vietnam Service medal, an Armed Forces Expeditionary medal as well as a National Defense medal. He was honorably discharged on July 14, 1966.

Bob married Anne Marie (MacNeil) on October 19, 1968, and they lived in Needham until 1980 at which time they moved to Petersham and have enjoyed over 55 years of marriage and raising their family.

A police officer for the Needham Police Department, Bob served 13 years before an accidental injury forced him to retire. Bob joined the volunteer Petersham Fire Department until requested to retire at 72 years of age. He was Commander of the Petersham American Legion Post 415, a member of the former Athol-Orange Elks Lodge #1837, the Petersham Grange, and above all else he was a parishioner of St. Peter's Parish.



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**On the Cover: “new” frontline pumper truck, dubbed The Unicorn for its rare, “just what we needed” availability , sound condition, and good price.**

This fiscal year has seen some dramatic changes in the outside, inside, and throughout the Petersham Fire Department. The Petersham Fire Department is served entirely by On-Call staff who respond to emergency calls 24/7 in Petersham and as part of Mutual Aid system with surrounding towns. Knowing the budget is tight, they regularly put in hours of voluntary work. The Selectboard and Advisory Finance Committee are continually impressed by their ingenuity, dedication, and pursuit of professional excellence.

**THANK YOU**



## TOWN OF PETERSHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

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### Budget Report of the Petersham Advisory Finance Committee FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025



### Selectboard Warrants for Special & Annual Town Meeting FOR JUNE 3, 2024

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Figure A: FY25 Budget Components

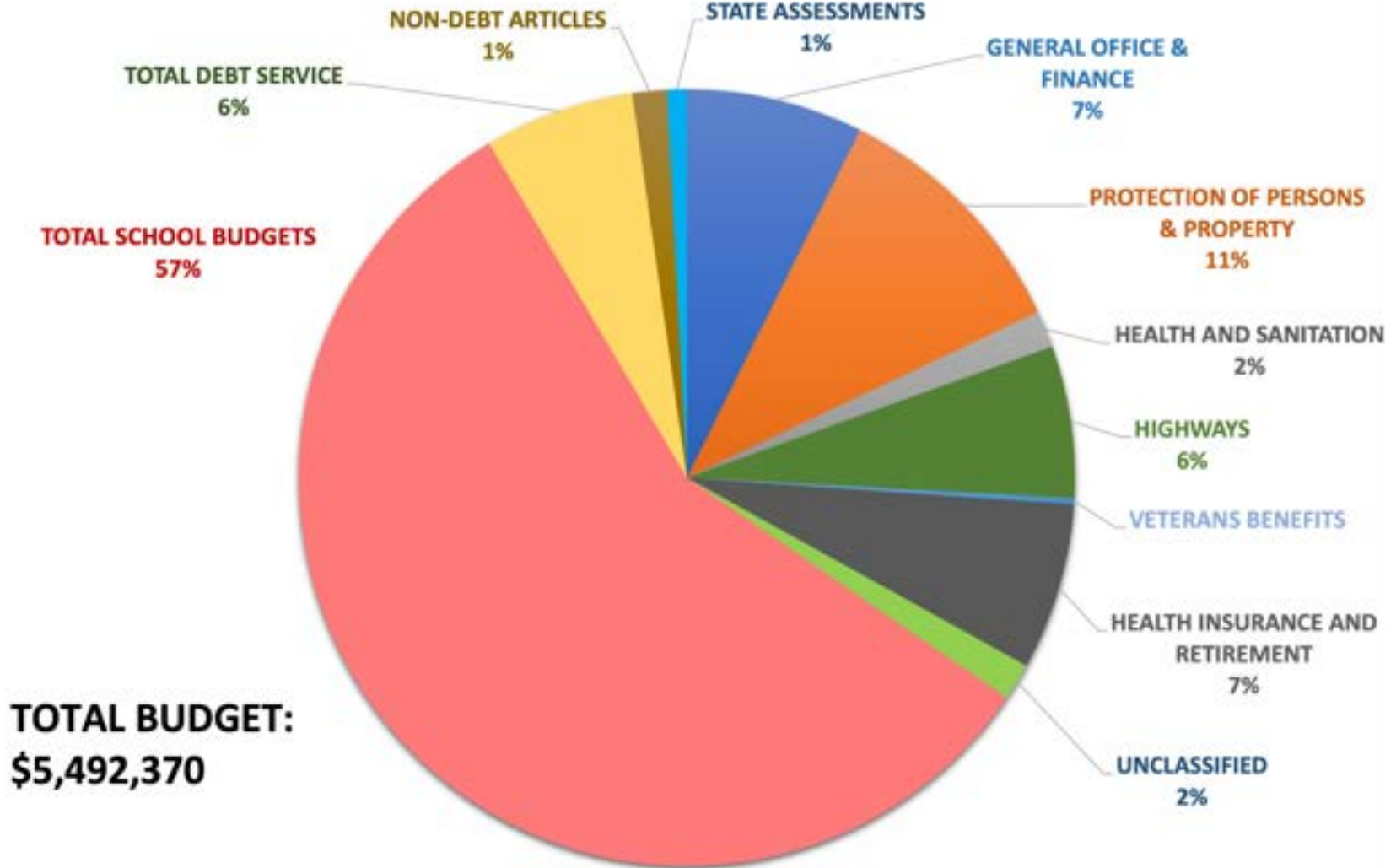
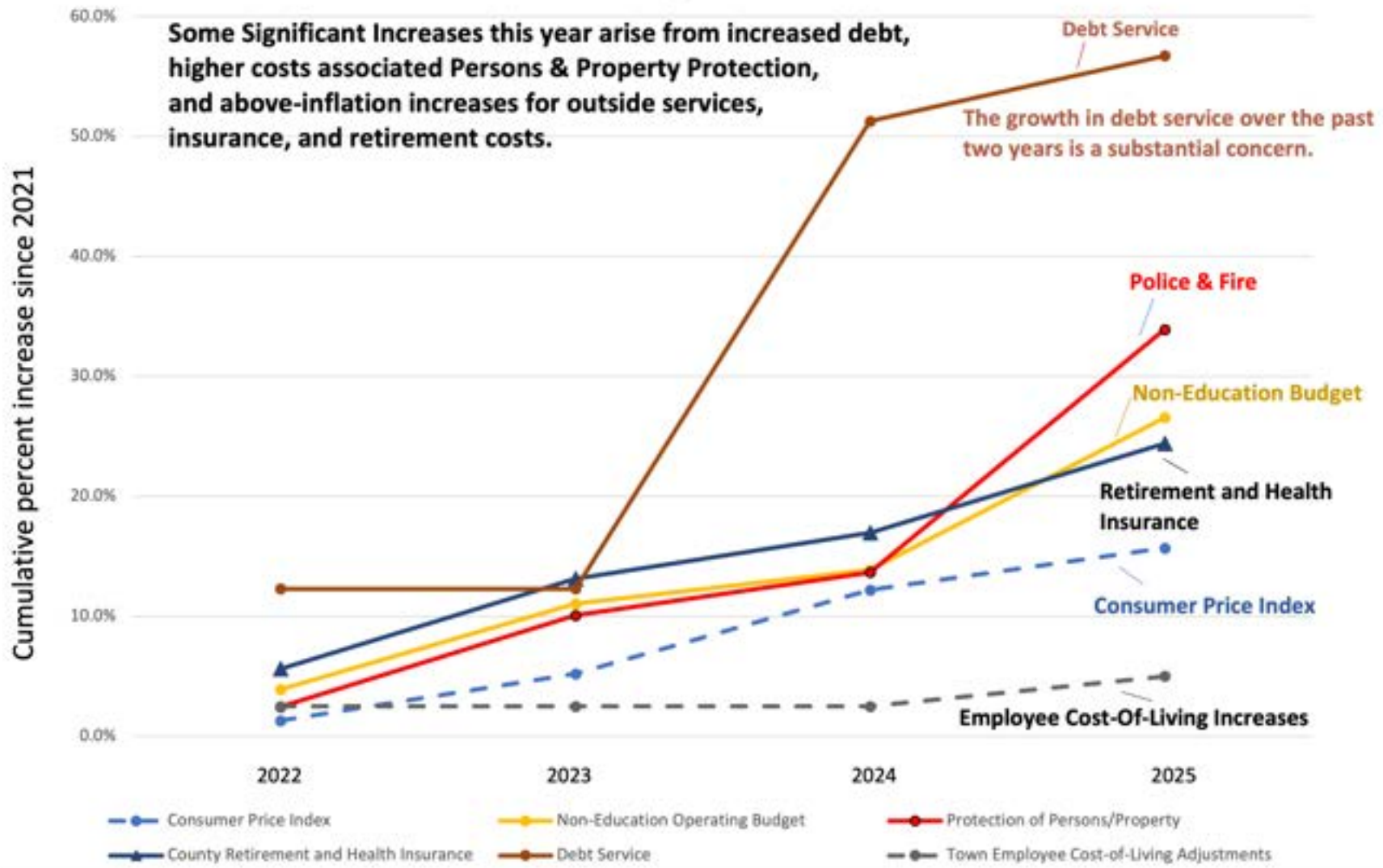
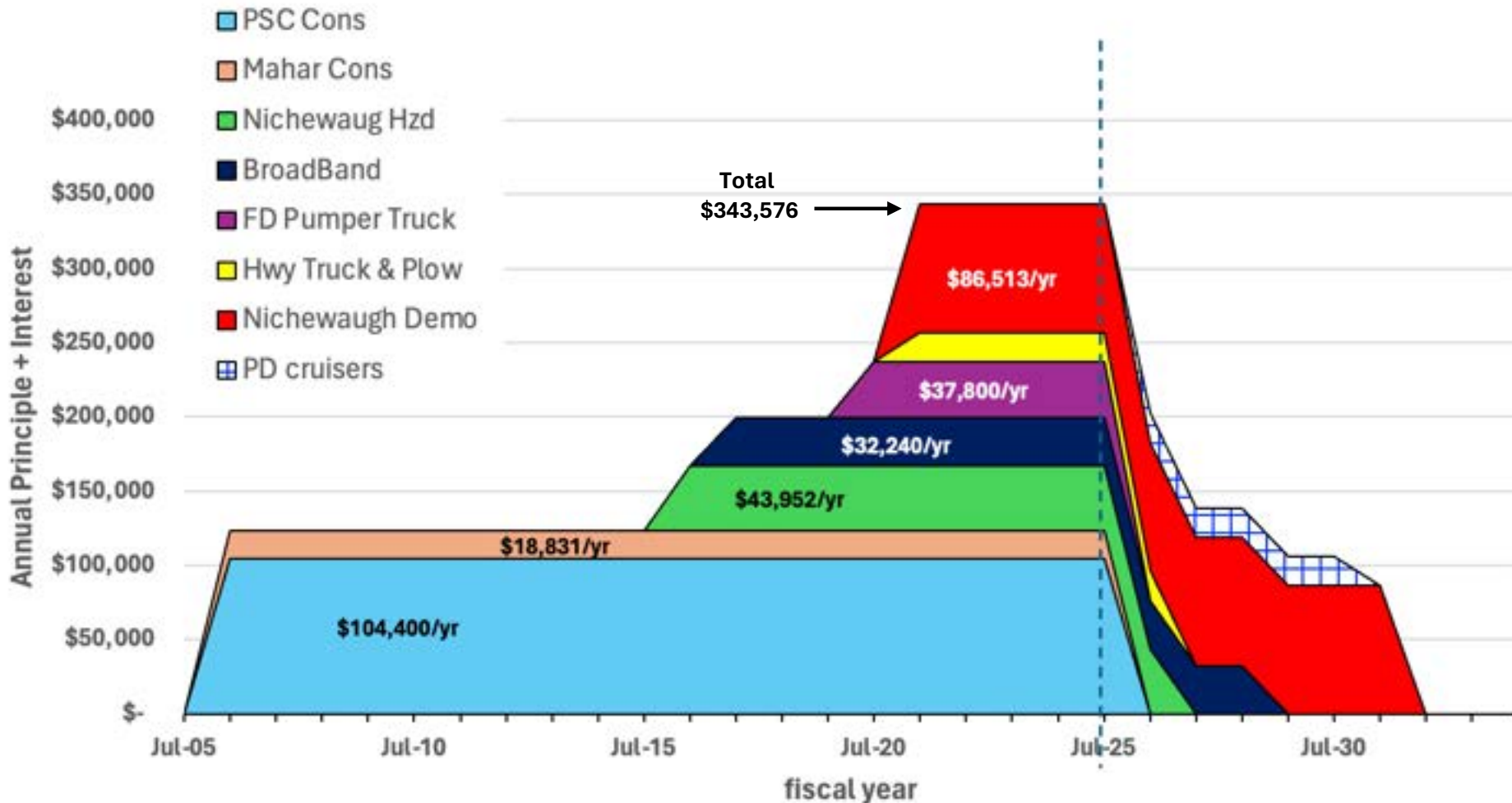




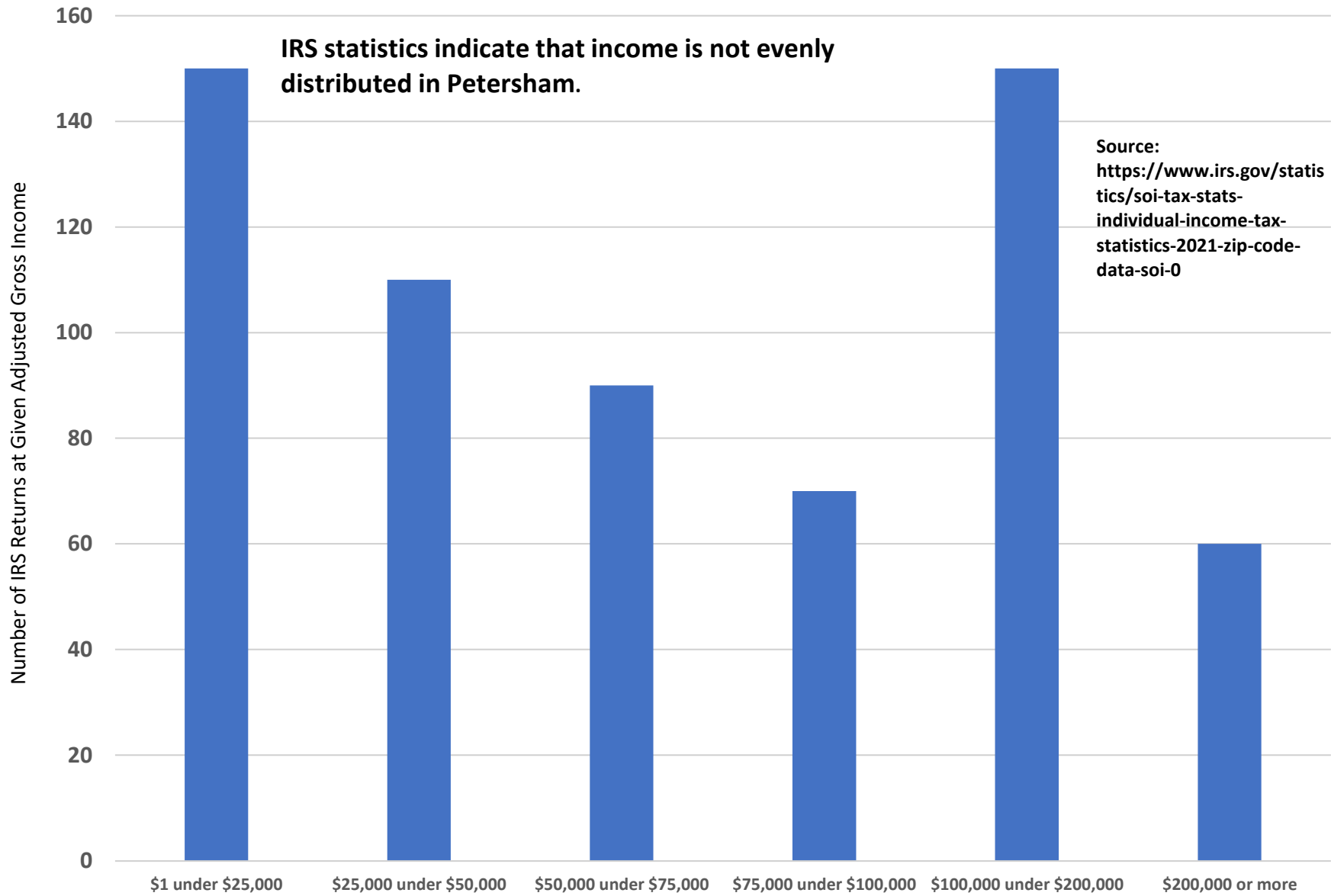
Figure B: Cumulative Percent Increases from 2021 Levels for Selected Budget Components



**Figure C: Annual Principal + Interest for Current Loans (2005-2032)**

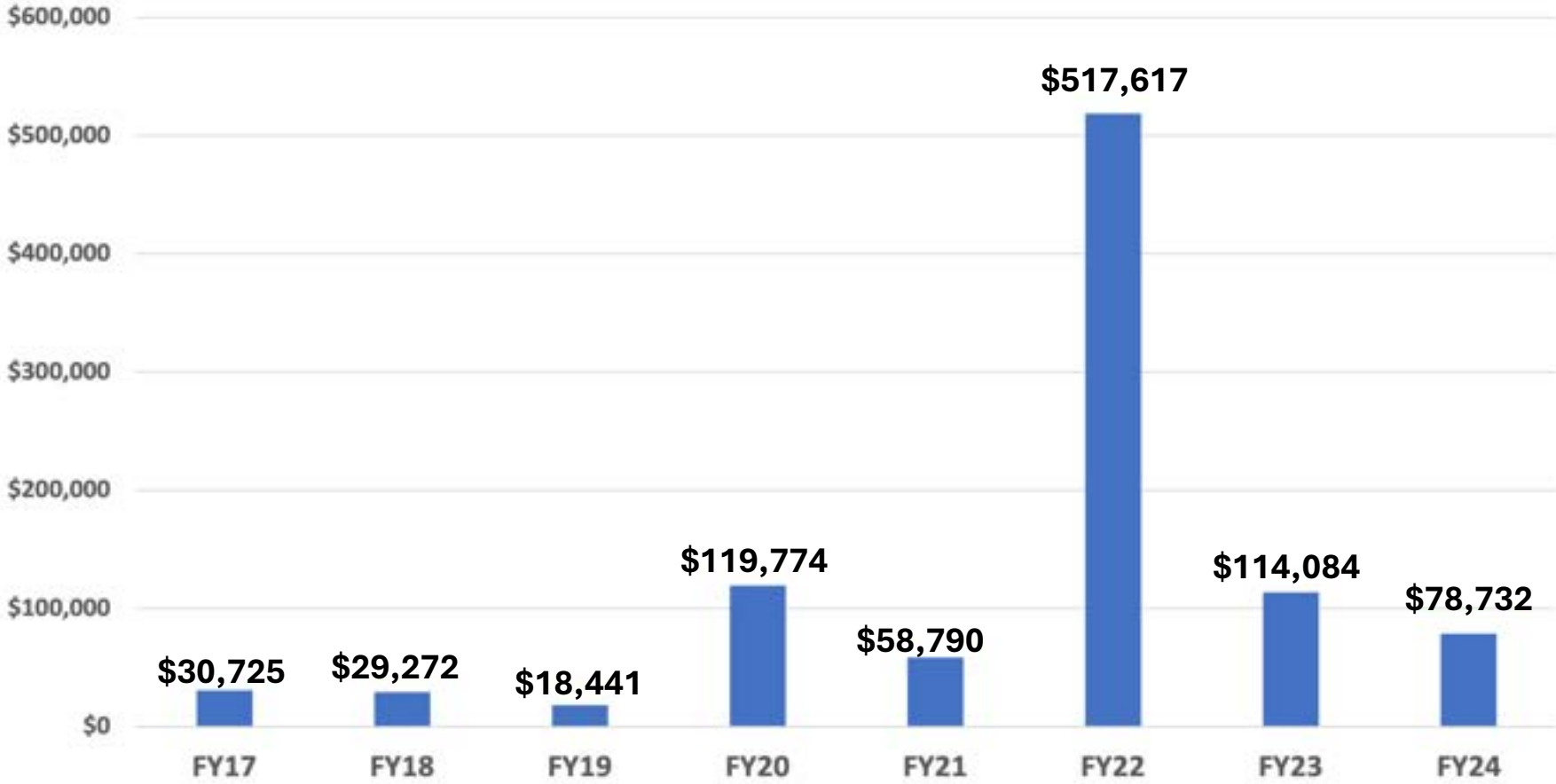


**Figure D: Petersham Income Distribution**  
**IRS 2021 Data**





### Deficits Funded at STMs at the End of the Year





**SUMMARY TOTAL PETERSHAM BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025**

<b>TOWN EXPENSES</b>	<b>FY 2025 AFC Recommendation</b>	<b>FY 2024 Budget at ATM</b>	<b>\$ Change</b>
Municipal Operating Budget (Non-Education)	1,878,098	1,668,431	209,667
Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District - Appropriation	958,653	961,242	(2,589)
Montachusett Regional Tech School District - Appropriation	140,735	130,375	10,360
Petersham Center School Assessment*	2,027,418	1,854,216	173,202
School Choice Sending Tuition (Cherry Sheet)	44,604	70,073	(25,469)
Other State Assessments	486	481	5
Debt Service (ATM Articles)	343,576	325,835	17,741
Capital Improvement and Other Non-debt Articles	78,800	158,541	(79,741)
Assessor's Overlay Reserve	20,000	20,000	-
* As presented by PCS, the assessment is computed by subtracting State funds for School Choice Incoming Students from the total budget.			
<b>TOTAL BUDGET for FY 2025 ATM</b>	<b>5,492,370</b>	<b>5,189,194</b>	<b>303,176</b>
<b>TOWN REVENUE</b>			
State Education Aid - School Choice Receiving: See note above.			-
State Education Aid - Chapter 70	537,750	496,207	41,543
State Aid <u>General Government</u> (Cherry Sheet)	260,694	254,754	5,940
Estimated Local Receipts (Based on Assessor's FY2024 Estimate)	801,025	783,600	17,425
Stabilization Fund			
Free Cash Remaining After FY 2024 STM Allocations	25,591	270,895	(245,304)
Assessor's Overlay Excess	25,000		
Other Available Funds	9,000	8,000	1,000
Broadband Enterprise Fund	30,000	30,000	-
Broadband Retained Earnings	10,000	10,000	
<b>ESTIMATED TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>1,699,060</b>	<b>1,853,456</b>	<b>(154,396)</b>
<b>ESTIMATED AMOUNT TO BE RAISED</b>	<b>3,793,310</b>	<b>3,335,738</b>	<b>457,572</b>
<b>ESTIMATED EVALUATION OF PROPOSITION 2-1/2 COMPLIANCE</b>			
Principal & Interest for 2-1/2 Excluded Debt	204,983		
Amount To Be Raised Minus Principal & Interest for Debt Excluded Under Prop. 2-1/2	3,588,327		
Estimated Maximum Levy Under Proposition 2-1/2	3,603,739		
<b>Estimated Excess Levy Capacity</b>	<b>15,412</b>		
<b>STABILIZATION ACCOUNT STATUS</b>			
Amount Currently in the Stabilization Account	127,166		
Current Percent of Total Budget	2.32%		
Amount to be Added in this Budget			
Total Stabilization After Appropriation	127,166		
Stabilization as a Percentage of the Total Budget	2.32%		
Prudent Target Percentage of Total Budget	8.00%		
<b>AMOUNT NEEDED TO MEET PRUDENT STABILIZATION TARGET</b>	<b>\$312,224</b>		
<b>Estimated Impact on Tax Rate</b>			
ESTIMATED AMOUNT TO BE RAISED	3,793,310		
Value of Real Property from FY24 Recap	235,310,756		
Value of Real Property from FY24 Recap in thousands	235,311		
Tax dollars per \$1000 dollars of property value	\$16.12		
		Estimated FY25 Tax Rate	1.61%
FY24 Tax Rate			1.43%

**Report by the Petersham Advisory Finance Committee  
for the Special and Annual Town Meetings  
June 3, 2024**

**I. SUMMARY**

The articles to be considered at the Special Town Meeting and as part of the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget at the Annual Town Meeting represent work done by the Selectboard and Advisory Finance Committee to make some corrections in the non-education budget in the face of rising education costs, an increased debt burden, additional insurance costs, as well as decreased revenues from sources other than those raised through taxation. Using a conservative model for funding the budget, the amount to be raised by taxation is near the maximum allowed under Proposition 2½ as the town seeks to fund the FY25 Budget as outlined below and as more fully set forth in this publication.

The Advisory Finance Committee (AFC) would like to thank our town employees, the Selectboard, and members of other town boards for their efforts in reaching this result that maintains adequate municipal services and does not entail an override of Proposition 2½.

As described more fully below, the AFC recommends using the Free Cash available this year to largely pay for the articles of the *Special* Town Meeting that involve unexpected cost overruns and to pay for the articles of the *Annual* Town Meeting that involve servicing the debt from the new highway truck and partially paying for repairs needed to the foundation of the Fire Department Building on East Street.

Due to the relatively small amount of Free Cash available this year, the town is unable to fund much in the way of capital improvements or to set aside money in the Stabilization Fund.

The AFC is providing a number of charts to help visualize the town's expenses and other factors that the Advisory Finance Committee considers in making its recommendations. The illustrations include:

- Fig. A. a pie chart that shows the percentages of the various budget components that make up the town's \$5.5 million budget;
- Fig. B. a line graph that shows the percent increases in areas of the budget over the last few years compared to the Consumer Price Index;
- Fig. C. a graph that tracks our principle and interest payments on loans since 2005 and into the future to 2032; and
- Fig. D. a bar graph that illustrates the bimodal income distribution in Petersham and helps guide the Advisory Finance Committee's recommendations in making this budget as affordable as possible for all of Petersham's residents.

In short, the AFC makes the following recommendations based on this and other information and after consultation and cooperation with the various town personnel, departments, boards, and committees.

## **II. SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

**Article 1 (Fire Department Deficit)** involves eliminating the FY24 deficit for the Fire Department stemming largely from a new salary structure approved by the prior Selectboard but not accounted for in the FY24 Fire Department Budget. The AFC recommends its passage using available Free Cash and an interdepartmental transfer from the Police Department for monies the Police Department saved in FY24 due to a position not needing to be funded in full.

**Article 2 (Transfer Station Deficit)** involves the elimination of the FY24 deficit for the Transfer Station due to a greater than anticipated number of loads of trash at the transfer station. The AFC recommends its passage using available Free Cash.

**Article 3 (Town Telephone Deficit)** involves the elimination of the FY24 deficit for telephone charges that were not included in the prior Selectboard's FY24 budget. The AFC recommends its passage using available Free Cash.

**Article 4 (Highway Department Deficit)** involves the elimination of the FY24 deficit of the Highway Department stemming largely from a new salary structure approved by the prior Selectboard but not accounted for in the FY24 Highway Department Budget. The AFC recommends its passage using available Free Cash and an interdepartmental transfer from the Fire Inspection Overlay account.

**Article 5 (Unemployment Deficit)** involves the elimination of the FY24 deficit in the Unemployment Compensation Account stemming from an unanticipated claim. The AFC recommends its passage using available Free Cash.

## **III. ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – The FY2025 Operating Budget**

### **Operating Budget**

Overall, the town's general operating budget (not including Special Articles) is \$390,460 more than last year, an increase of about 8.47%, broken down as follows:

1. The Petersham Center School (PCS) budget request for Fiscal Year 2025 is \$2,027,413. This represents an increase of \$173,202, or a 9.34% rise from the prior year's appropriation.
2. The Ralph C. Mahar Regional School (Mahar) budget request for Fiscal Year 2025 is \$958,653. This represents a decrease of \$2,589, or -0.27%, in Petersham's assessment from the prior year.

3. The Montachusett Technical School District budget request for Fiscal Year 2025 is \$140,735. This represents an increase of \$10,360, a 7.98% rise in Petersham's assessment from the prior year.
4. The Selectboard's Non-Education Budget request for Fiscal Year 2025 is \$1,878,098. This represents an increase of \$209,667, a 12.57% rise in the appropriation from the prior year. This additional appropriation is due largely to increases in the "Protection of Persons and Property" section of the budget, which represents an increase of \$98,252, or 20.24%, from the prior year for salaries and expenses.

Also, the Health Insurance and Retirement section of the budget is increasing by \$26,401, a rise of 7.43%, mainly due to an increase in the County Retirement obligation. The Highway Department budget request is for an additional \$25,877, representing an increase of 8.04% in salaries and expenses. The Selectboard's Non-Education Budget request for Fiscal Year 2025 also includes a 5% cost-of-living increase for other employees, which amounts to about \$15,000 to the FY2025 Budget.

This proposed spending is reflected in **Article 19**, and the AFC recommends its passage.

Statutorily required, **Article 20** specifically fixes the salaries of Elective Town Officers, which are already included as part of the spending considered in Article 19, and the AFC recommends its passage.

### **Special Articles and Free Cash**

The total amount requested for Special Articles is \$422,376. This represents a decrease of \$58,325, or 12%, in the appropriation from FY24.

**Articles 21 through 27** pertain to debt obligations, and the AFC recommends their passage. Articles 21 and 22 pertain to the school construction loans for the Petersham Center School and the Mahar Regional School. Article 23 pertains to the loan for the removal of the asbestos and hazardous materials from the Nichewaug Inn & Academy buildings. Article 24 is for the debt incurred for project expenses for completion of the town-wide broadband network project. Article 25 is for the principal and interest due for the loan for the Fire Department's Pumper Truck. Article 26 is for the debt incurred for the demolition of the Nichewaug Inn and Academy buildings. Article 27 is for the debt incurred for a new truck for the Highway Department approved at Town Meeting in June 2021.

**Article 28** (Board of Assessors' Full Measure and List of Real Estate and Personal Property) is for year five of a five-year commitment to comply with state law, and the AFC recommends its passage.

**Article 29** (Reserve Fund) earmarks \$30,000 for the Reserve Fund for FY2025, and the AFC recommends its passage.



**Article 30** (Broadband Operations) allocates \$30,000 from broadband subscriber's fees to the Petersham Municipal Light Plant Broadband Enterprise Fund. While this does not strictly fall within the budget, the vote at town meeting is required by the Commonwealth, and the AFC recommends its passage.

**Article 31** (Town Clerk) allots \$2,000 for services to archive and preserve town records by the Town Clerk. The AFC recommends its passage.

**Article 32** (Fire Department Foundation Repairs) allocates \$10,000 for repairs to the foundation of the Fire Department Building, and the AFC recommends its passage.

**Article 33** (Petersham Brass Band) raises and appropriates \$1,800 for six (6) concerts, and the AFC identifies this Article 33 as voter preference.

**Article 34** (Deposit into the Cemetery Repair Fund) does not involve a tax appropriation. Nevertheless, the AFC recommends its passage.

**Article 35** (Town Meeting Quorum), **Article 36** (Cleaning Leaf Litter from Streets), **Article 37** (Zoning By-law change; uses of site of former Nichewaug Inn), **Article 38** (Zoning By-law change; review of building permits), **Article 39** (Zoning By-law change; clerical corrections), and **Article 40** (Capital Improvement Planning Committee) are not budget-related items, and the AFC has identified them as voter preference.

**Article 41** (Stabilization Fund) authorizes the depositing of funds into the Stabilization Fund, and the AFC recommends its passage. The budget presented for FY25 does not anticipate the depositing of funds in the Stabilization Fund, it remains on the warrant as a placeholder should the opportunity arise at Town Meeting.

**Free Cash** available this year is set at \$87,323. Not since 2015 has the town had so little from this revenue source. We recommend using it toward paying for the unexpected overruns addressed in the Articles of the *Special* Town Meeting (\$38,000 of Free Cash to pay part of the Fire Department overrun; \$3,450 to pay part of the highway salaries overrun; \$5,500 to pay for town telephone deficit; \$3,782 for the unemployment deficit; and \$11,000 for the transfer station deficit). With regard to the Articles of the *Annual* Town Meeting, we have recommended using \$19,840 toward the Highway Truck Loan and the remaining \$5,751 to help pay for the repairs to the foundation to the fire station.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

The Fiscal Year 2025 budget offered for your consideration is intended to limit tax appropriations to provide for essential services and to meet current obligations within the Proposition 2½ levy limit. We typically set a goal of keeping the total budget (the general budget + the special articles) approximately \$150,000 under the levy

limit. Maintaining such “excess levy capacity” enables the Town to deal with late-breaking revenue shortfalls. Given the need to make corrections to the non-education portion of the budget, to meet the town’s increased debt obligations, and otherwise to provide town residents expected services, this year you will see a forecasted surplus at the bottom of the Report page of just \$15,412.

At our Annual and Special Town meetings, voters raise and appropriate funds for Town services and expenses. The money voters agree to raise directly determines property taxes. The AFC seeks to recommend articles based on how the requested appropriations affect the fiscal health of the Town and the well-being of its residents. Ultimately, however, each of us must decide how much we are willing to pay for these services and expenses. In that sense, every article at every meeting is Voter Preference and we urge you to consider all issues carefully when making an informed decision.

**TOWN OF PETERSHAM, MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2025**

<b>Summary</b>	<b>FY25</b>	<b>FY24</b>	<b>% Increase</b>	<b>Dollar Increase</b>
GENERAL OFFICE & FINANCE	402,715	349,440	15.25%	53,275
PROTECTION OF PERSONS & PROPERTY	583,710	485,458	20.24%	98,252
HEALTH AND SANITATION	83,759	77,734	7.75%	6,025
HIGHWAYS	347,640	321,763	8.04%	25,877
VETERANS BENEFITS	13,884	13,816	0.49%	68
HEALTH INSURANCE AND RETIREMENT	381,876	355,475	7.43%	26,401
UNCLASSIFIED	64,514	64,745	-0.36%	-231
RALPH C. MAHAR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	958,653	961,242	-0.27%	-2,589
MONTACHUSETT TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	140,735	130,375	7.95%	10,360
PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL APPROPRIATION	2,027,418	1,854,216	9.34%	173,202
TOTAL MUNICIPAL OPERATING BUDGET (NON EDUCATIOI	1,878,098	1,668,431	12.57%	209,667
TOTAL SCHOOL BUDGETS	3,126,806	2,945,833	6.14%	180,973
<b>TOTAL GENERAL BUDGET</b>	<b>5,004,904</b>	<b>4,614,264</b>	<b>8.47%</b>	<b>390,640</b>

**GENERAL BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2025**

	<b>Sheet</b>	<b>Recommended FY2025</b>	<b>Budget FY2024</b>	<b>% Change</b>	<b>Dollar Change</b>
<b><u>GENERAL OFFICE &amp; FINANCE</u></b>					
<b><u>Moderator</u></b>	<u>1</u>				
Moderator — Salary		-	-		
Moderator Expenses		70	70	-	-
<b><u>Selectboard</u></b>	<u>2</u>				
Selectboard – Salaries		10,313	9,820	0	493
Staff — Salaries		10,000	8,000	0	2,000
Expenses		5,150	4,600	0	550
<b><u>Legal Fees</u></b>	<u>3</u>	17,714	17,000	0	714
<b><u>Medicare</u></b>	<u>4</u>	34,616	30,001	0	4,615
<b><u>Unemployment</u></b>	<u>5</u>	15,000			
<b><u>Admin Coordinator – Salary</u></b>	<u>6</u>	30,271	25,062	0	5,209
<b><u>Admin Coordinator – Overtime</u></b>	<u>7</u>	-	-		-
<b><u>Telephone &amp; Internet</u></b>	<u>9</u>	10,000	-		10,000
<b><u>Audit</u></b>	<u>10</u>	2,000	-		2,000
<b><u>Town Hall &amp; Office Bldg Maint</u></b>	<u>11</u>	7,000	4,900	0	2,100
<b><u>Treasurer</u></b>	<u>12</u>				
Treasurer – Salary		21,781	20,743	0	1,038
Treasurer Expenses		8,110	7,985	0	125

**GENERAL BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2025**

		<b>Recommended</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>% Change</b>	<b>Dollar Change</b>
<b><u>Treasurer Account Bank Fees</u></b>	<u>13</u>	<b>1</b>	1	-	
<b><u>Payroll Processing</u></b>	<u>14</u>	<b>4,200</b>	4,000	0	200
<b><u>Town Accountant</u></b>	<u>15</u>				
Accounting – Salaries		<b>29,422</b>	28,020	0	1,402
Accountant Expenses		<b>8,179</b>	8,173	0	6
<b><u>Printing</u></b>	<u>16</u>	<b>2,970</b>	2,900	0	70
<b><u>Tax Collector</u></b>	<u>17</u>				
Tax Collector – Salary		<b>16,380</b>	15,600	0	780
Tax Collector – Expenses		<b>20,055</b>	19,317	0	738
<b><u>Tax Collector – Account Bank Fees</u></b>	<u>18</u>	<b>1</b>	1	-	-
<b><u>Board of Assessors</u></b>	<u>19</u>				
Board of Assessors – Salaries		<b>10,313</b>	9,820	0	493
Assistant Assessor – Salary		<b>37,228</b>	34,502	0	2,726
Expenses		<b>32,673</b>	34,175	(0)	(1,502)
<b><u>Town Clerk</u></b>	<u>20</u>				
Town Clerk – Salary		<b>16,380</b>	15,600	0	780
Town Clerk Part-time Salaries		<b>1,320</b>	1,257	0	63
Town Clerk – Expenses		<b>6,000</b>	8,295	(0)	(2,295)
<b><u>Land Court Fees</u></b>	<u>21</u>	<b>1</b>	1		
<b><u>Vital Statistics</u></b>	<u>22</u>	<b>100</b>	100	-	-
<b><u>Election &amp; Registration</u></b>	<u>23</u>				
Election & Registration – Salaries		<b>10,000</b>	6,000	1	4,000
Election & Registration – Expenses		<b>3,900</b>	3,500	0	400
<b><u>Planning Board</u></b>	<u>24</u>				
Planning Board Admin – Salary		-	-		-
Planning Board – Expenses		-	-		-
<b><u>Historic Commission</u></b>	<u>25</u>				
Historic Commission – Expenses		<b>85</b>	85	-	-
<b><u>Historic District Commission</u></b>	<u>26</u>				
HDC – Expenses		<b>252</b>	252	-	-
<b><u>Advisory Finance Committee</u></b>	<u>27</u>				
AFC – Expenses		<b>800</b>	800	-	-
<b><u>Town Hall &amp; Town Office</u></b>	<u>28</u>				
Salary		<b>800</b>	4,800	(1)	(4,000)
Town Hall & Town Office – Expenses		<b>26,786</b>	21,960	0	4,826
<b><u>Zoning Board of Appeals</u></b>	<u>29</u>				
ZBA - Salaries		-	-		-
ZBA – Expenses		<b>850</b>	850	-	-

**GENERAL BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2025**

**Computer Services**

62

**TOTAL GENERAL OFFICE & FINANCE:**

Change over previous year>>

**PROTECTION OF PERSONS & PROPERTY**

**Building Inspector**

32

Building Inspector – Salary

Building Inspector – Clerical Asst. Salary

Building Inspector – Contracted Expenses

**Police Department:**

33

Chief – Salary

Full-time Officer – Salary

Full-time Officer – Overtime Wages

Part-time Officers – Salaries

Officers' Training wages

Police Dept. – Expenses

**Fire Department:**

34

Chief – Salary

Fire Dept. Members – Salaries

Fire Dept. – Expenses

**Public Safety Communications**

35

Public Safety Expenses

**Forest Warden**

36

**Tree Warden**

37

Tree Warden – Salary

Tree Warden – Expenses

**Animal Control**

38

Animal Control – Salary

Animal Control – Expenses

**Insurance**

39

Property, Liability, Workers' Comp, IOD

Police/Fire IOD

**Emergency Management**

40

Salaries

Expenses

**Conservation Commission**

41

**Hearing Enforcement Officer**

64

**TOTAL PROTECTION PERSONS & PROPERTY:**

Recommended	Budget	% Change	Dollar Change
1,994	1,250	1	744
402,715	349,440	0	53,275
15.25%			
-	-	-	-
5,733	5,460	0	273
11,811	11,580	0	231
98,182	93,506	0	4,676
61,633	61,633	-	-
10,000	6,307	1	3,693
61,798	56,180	0	5,618
10,164	10,164	-	-
55,928	51,030	0	4,898
6,550	6,550	-	-
91,179	34,834	2	56,345
47,491	35,240	0	12,251
7,620	7,000	0	620
34	32	0	2
3,478	3,312	0	166
685	685	-	-
3,576	3,405	0	171
3,125	1,925	1	1,200
74,978	70,000	0	4,978
21,906	20,600	0	1,306
1,539	1,465	0	74
3,000	3,050	(0)	(50)
3,300	1,500	1	1,800
-	-		
583,710	485,458	0	98,252

**GENERAL BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2025**

Change over previous year>>

**HEALTH AND SANITATION**

**Board of Health**

- Board of Health – Salaries
- Board of Health – Admin. Assistant Salary
- Board of Health – Expenses

**Inspector of Animals**

**Transfer Station Operations**

- Transfer Station Salaries
- Transfer Station Expenses

**HEALTH AND SANITATION**

Change over previous year>>

**HIGHWAYS**

**Highway Salaries**

- Superintendent – Salary
- Highway Dept Other – Salaries

**Town Barn Account**

**General Highways**

**Snow & Ice Removal**

**Street Lights**

**TOTAL HIGHWAYS**

Change over previous year>>

**VETERANS BENEFITS**

- District Veteran Agent – District Allocation
- Veterans – Benefits

**TOTAL VETERANS BENEFITS**

Change over previous year>>

**HEALTH INSURANCE AND RETIREMENT**

**County Retirement**

**Healthcare Insurance Active Employees**

**Healthcare Insurance – For retirees**

**TOTAL HEALTH INSURANCE AND RETIREMENT**

Change over previous year>>

	Recommended	Budget	% Change	Dollar Change
	20.2%			
<b>Board of Health</b>				
Board of Health – Salaries	607	577	0	30
Board of Health – Admin. Assistant Salary	8,580	8,654	(0)	(74)
Board of Health – Expenses	2,700	2,700	-	-
<b>Inspector of Animals</b>	2,944	2,803	0	141
<b>Transfer Station Operations</b>				
Transfer Station Salaries	11,088	10,500	0	588
Transfer Station Expenses	57,840	52,500	0	5,340
<b>HEALTH AND SANITATION</b>	<b>83,759</b>	<b>77,734</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,025</b>
	7.8%			
<b>HIGHWAYS</b>				
<b>Highway Salaries</b>				
Superintendent – Salary	67,725	62,000	0	5,725
Highway Dept Other – Salaries	133,920	119,413	0	14,507
<b>Town Barn Account</b>	11,050	8,750	0	2,300
<b>General Highways</b>	63,445	62,600	0	845
<b>Snow &amp; Ice Removal</b>	61,500	60,000	0	1,500
<b>Street Lights</b>	10,000	9,000	0	1,000
<b>TOTAL HIGHWAYS</b>	<b>347,640</b>	<b>321,763</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25,877</b>
	8.0%			
<b>VETERANS BENEFITS</b>				
District Veteran Agent – District Allocation	3,884	3,816	0	68
Veterans – Benefits	10,000	10,000	-	-
<b>TOTAL VETERANS BENEFITS</b>	<b>13,884</b>	<b>13,816</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>68</b>
	0.5%			
<b>HEALTH INSURANCE AND RETIREMENT</b>				
<b>County Retirement</b>	232,766	209,575	0	23,191
<b>Healthcare Insurance Active Employees</b>	83,906	82,100	0	1,806
<b>Healthcare Insurance – For retirees</b>	65,204	63,800	0	1,404
<b>TOTAL HEALTH INSURANCE AND RETIREMENT</b>	<b>381,876</b>	<b>355,475</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26,401</b>
	7.4%			



**GENERAL BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2025**

**UNCLASSIFIED**

<b><u>Library</u></b>	50
<b><u>Bandstand Lighting</u></b>	51
<b><u>Town Clock</u></b>	52
<b><u>Memorial Day</u></b>	55
<b><u>Care of Common</u></b>	56
<b><u>Cemetery Commission</u></b>	59
<b><u>High Tree Work</u></b>	61
<b><u>Open Space and Recreation</u></b>	66
<b><u>Council on Aging</u></b>	67

**TOTAL UNCLASSIFIED**

Change over previous year>>

**TOTAL NON-EDUCATION BUDGET:**

Change over previous year>>

**EDUCATION BUDGET**

<b><u>RALPH C. MAHAR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT</u></b>	80
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<b><u>MONTACHUSETT TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT</u></b>	81
--	----

<b><u>PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL</u></b>	82
---------------------------------------	----

Regular Education and General Expense

Special Needs Education Expense

**PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL BUDGET TOTAL**

Less: Known Income + Choice carryover

Less: Incoming School Choice

Reserve – from Incoming School Choice\*

**NET PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL APPROPRIATION**

**TOTAL EDUCATION BUDGET APPROPRIATION:**

**GRAND TOTAL GENERAL BUDGET:**

Grand Total General Budget -Change over previous year>>

ALL 3 school budgets (change over previous year)>>

	Recommended	Budget	% Change	Dollar Change
	10,165	10,035	0	130
	350	350	-	-
	100	100	-	-
	600	600	-	-
	9,945	9,945	-	-
	26,254	25,665	0	589
	15,000	15,000	-	-
	500	1,550	(1)	(1,050)
	1,600	1,500	0	100
	<b>64,514</b>	<b>64,745</b>	(0)	(231)
	-0.4%			
	<b>1,878,098</b>	<b>1,668,431</b>	0	209,667
	12.6%			
	-			
	<b>958,653</b>	<b>961,242</b>	(0)	(2,589)
	-0.3%			
	<b>140,735</b>	<b>130,375</b>	0	10,360
	7.9%			
	<b>1,832,366</b>	1,672,909	0	159,457
	<b>552,233</b>	541,307	0	10,926
	<b>2,384,599</b>	<b>2,214,216</b>	0	170,383
	-	22,237	(1)	(22,237)
	<b>(357,181)</b>	(382,237)	(0)	25,056
	-	-		-
	<b>2,027,418</b>	<b>1,854,216</b>	0	173,202
	9.3%			
	<b>3,126,806</b>	<b>2,945,833</b>	0	180,973
	<b>5,004,904</b>	<b>4,614,264</b>	0	390,640
	8.5%			
	6.1%			

**Town of Petersham  
Massachusetts**

**STM ARTICLES FISCAL 2024 Special Town Meeting**

May 21, 2024

**FY2024 RECOMMENDED AMOUNTS**

	ARTICLE	APPROPRIATE	RAISE BY TAXATION	From Free Cash	From Stabilization	From Police Excess	From BOH Revolving	From Fire Inspect Revolving	REQUESTED AMOUNT
Fire Department Deficit	1	53,000		38,000		15,000			53,000
Transfer Station Deficit	2	11,000		11,000					11,000
Town Telephone Deficit	3	5,500		5,500					5,500
Highways Salaries Deficit	4	5,450		3,450				2,000	5,450
Unemployment Deficit	5	3,782		3,782					3,782
<b>TOTAL SPECIAL ARTICLES</b>		<b>\$ 78,732</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$ 61,732</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$ 15,000</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$ 2,000</b>	<b>\$ 78,732</b>

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	L	M
1	<b>Town of Petersham</b>			<b>SUMMARY</b>			ctr					
2	<b>Massachusetts</b>			<b>TOTAL DEBT SERVICE</b>			343,576					
3				<b>TOTAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT &amp; MISC</b>			\$ 78,800					
4				<b>2-1/2 Excluded Debt</b>			\$ 204,983					
5	<b>ATM ARTICLES FISCAL 2025</b>											
6								Fiscal Year 2025				
7								RECOMMENDED FUNDING SOURCES				
8				<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>From</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Estimated</b>	
9		<b>ARTICLE</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>APPROPRIATE</b>		<b>RAISE BY</b>	<b>BOH</b>	<b>Free</b>	<b>Surplus</b>	<b>Broadband</b>	<b>REQUESTED</b>	<b>Effect on</b>
10	<b>Description</b>	<b>#</b>		<b>Recommended</b>		<b>TAXATION</b>	<b>Revolving</b>	<b>Cash</b>	<b>Overlay</b>	<b>Enterprise</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>Tax Rate*</b>
11												
12	Debt Service - Petersham Center School Construction	21	DE	104,400		104,400					104,400	0.44
13	Debt Service - Mahar RSD Construction	22	DE	18,831		18,831					18,831	0.08
14	Debt Service - Nichewaug Hazardous Material Abatement	23	DE	43,952		43,952					43,952	0.19
15	Debt Service - Broadband make-ready BB1	24		32,240		22,240				10,000	32,240	0.14
16	Debt Service - Fire Department Pumper Truck	25	DE	37,800		37,800					37,800	0.16
17	Debt Service - Nichewaug Demolition	26		86,513		86,513					86,513	0.37
18	Debt Service - Highway Truck	27		19,840				19,840			19,840	0.08
19	Assessors - Cyclical Reassessment of Values	28		5,000		5,000					5,000	0.02
20	Reserve Fund	29		30,000			5,000		25,000		30,000	0.13
21	Broadband Enterprise Fund	30		30,000						30,000	30,000	0.13
22	Town Clerk Archives	31		2,000			2,000				2,000	0.01
23	Fire Department Foundation Repairs	32		10,000		4,249		5,751			10,000	0.04
24	Brass Band	33		1,800		1,800					1,800	0.01
25	Stabilization	41									-	
26												
27	*Note on Estimated Effect on Taxes. Value reflects amount if entire amount were to be raised in taxes.											

## FY2025 Preliminary Cherry Sheet Estimates (State funding and charges)

### RECEIPTS

PROGRAM	FY2024 Cherry Sheet Estimate	FY2025 Senate WM Budget Proposal
Education Receipts:		
Chapter 70	\$496,207	\$537,750
School Transportation	\$0	\$0
Charter Tuition Reimbursement	\$0	\$0
Smart Growth School Reimbursement	\$0	\$0
Offset Receipts:		
School Choice Receiving Tuition	\$393,011	\$357,181
<b>Sub-Total, All Education Items:</b>	<b>\$889,218</b>	<b>\$894,931</b>
General Government:		
Unrestricted Gen Gov't Aid	\$137,050	\$141,162
Local Share of Racing Taxes	\$0	\$0
Regional Public Libraries	\$0	\$0
Veterans Benefits	\$527	\$0
Exemp: VBS and Elderly	\$11,291	\$11,097
State Owned Land	\$101,058	\$103,668
Offset Receipts:		
Public Libraries	\$4,828	\$4,767
<b>Sub-Total, All General Government:</b>	<b>\$254,754</b>	<b>\$260,694</b>
<b>Total Estimated Receipts:</b>	<b>\$1,143,972</b>	<b>\$1,155,625</b>

### Assessments

County Assessments:		
County Tax	\$0	\$0
Suffolk County Retirement	\$0	\$0
Sub-Total, County Assessments:	\$0	\$0
State Assessments and Charges:		
Retired Employees Health Insurance	\$0	\$0
Retired Teachers Health Insurance	\$0	\$0
Mosquito Control Projects	\$0	\$0
Air Pollution Districts	\$378	\$386
Metropolitan Area Planning Council	\$0	\$0
Old Colony Planning Council	\$0	\$0
RMV Non-Renewal Surcharge	\$40	\$100
<b>Sub-Total, State Assessments:</b>	<b>\$418</b>	<b>\$486</b>
Transportation Authorities:		
MBTA	\$0	\$0
Boston Metro. Transit District	\$0	\$0
Regional Transit	\$0	\$0
Sub-Total, Transp Authorities:	\$0	\$0
Annual Charges Against Receipts:		
Multi-Year Repayment Program	\$0	\$0
Special Education	\$0	\$0
Sub-Total, Annual Charges:	\$0	\$0
Tuition Assessments:		
School Choice Sending Tuition	\$96,030	\$44,604
Charter School Sending Tuition	\$0	\$0
<b>Sub-Total, Tutition Assessments:</b>	<b>\$96,030</b>	<b>\$44,604</b>
<b>Total All Estimated Charges:</b>	<b>\$96,448</b>	<b>\$45,090</b>

**TOWN OF PETERSHAM**

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT**

**MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024**

**ARTICLE 1.**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, or otherwise provide the sum of **\$53,000.00** to **eliminate the Fiscal Year 2024 Fire Department deficit**; or act in relation thereto.

**ARTICLE 2.**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, or otherwise provide the sum of **\$11,000.00** to **eliminate the Fiscal Year 2024 Transfer Station deficit**; or act in relation thereto.

**ARTICLE 3.**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, or otherwise provide the sum of **\$5,500** to **eliminate the Fiscal Year 2024 Town Telephone deficit**; or act in relation thereto.

**ARTICLE 4.**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, or otherwise provide the sum of **\$5,450** to **eliminate the Fiscal Year 2024 Highway Department Salaries deficit**; or act in relation thereto.

**ARTICLE 5.**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, or otherwise provide the sum of **\$3,782** to **eliminate the Fiscal Year 2024 Unemployment Compensation deficit**; or act in relation thereto.

## About the Consent Calendar for Annual Town Meeting

A number of years ago, the Selectboard and the Moderator implemented a "Consent Calendar." This is part of an effort to make our Town Meeting more productive and save time for discussion of the key issues.

Each year there are a number of Warrant Articles for which past experience suggests that the action will be routine, non-controversial, and predictable. At this Annual Meeting, these Articles will be selected for inclusion in the Consent Calendar. **As one of the first items of business, there will be a motion to take all of these Articles as printed in this Warrant (see Articles 2–18 on following pages 19–21) and act upon these as a group by a single, brief, affirmative main motion, referred to as the Consent Calendar.**

The use of the Consent Calendar speeds the passage of Warrant Articles which the Selectboard and Moderator, in consultation with Town Counsel and the Advisory Finance Committee, believe should generate no controversy and can be properly voted without debate.

At the Motion of the Consent Calendar, the Moderator will call out the number of each of the Articles, one by one. If any voter has doubt about passing any Motion, or wishes an explanation of any Article included in the Consent Calendar, the voter should say the word "Hold" in a loud voice when the Article number is called by the Moderator. The Moderator will then inquire as to whether the request to hold is for a question or for debate. If the purpose of the request was merely to ask a question, an attempt to obtain a satisfactory answer will be made, and if this occurs the Article will remain on the Consent Calendar. If the purpose of the request was to hold the Article for debate, the Article will be dropped from the Consent Calendar and restored to its original place in the Warrant to be brought up, debated, and voted on in the usual way.

After calling the individual Articles on the Consent Calendar, the Moderator will ask that all Articles remaining be PASSED AS A UNIT by a unanimous vote after a brief affirmative main Motion is made inclusive of all Articles remaining on the Consent Calendar.

No voter should hesitate to exercise their right to remove an Article from the Consent Calendar for discussion in the regular Warrant. It is the view of the voters as to the need for debate that is supreme, not that of the Town officials who prepared the Consent Calendar. It is hoped that voters will remove Articles from the Consent Calendar only in cases of genuine concern.

**THE CONSENT CALENDAR WILL BE TAKEN UP AS ONE OF THE  
FIRST ORDERS OF BUSINESS AT THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING.**

As noted, all Special and Annual Town Meeting Articles are found in this Warrant (see pages 16–21). Please review the proposed Articles for the Consent Calendar, the regular Warrant Articles, and the Advisory Finance Committee comments which follow.

Please do your homework before coming to Town Meeting. If you have any questions about the Articles included in the Consent Calendar, regular Warrant, motions, or procedures, please feel free to call the Administrative Coordinator (978-724-3353) or the Moderator (978-724-0400) before the Meeting.

The voters at Petersham Annual Town Meeting will also be asked by the Moderator at the beginning of the Meeting to vote the following action: That on Articles which require a 2/3s vote, the Moderator will not be required to take an actual count, again to save time, unless the Moderator so chooses. A test vote may, or may not, be taken to determine whether the binding vote could be unanimous. If not, a call for those opposed may be taken first and counted and those voting in the affirmative would then be called for and the count would be estimated. However, if at any time seven (7) voters question the count, an actual count will be taken.



**TOWN OF PETERSHAM**

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT**

**MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024**

...

**ARTICLE 1.**

To receive the reports of Town Officers and Committees and act thereon.

**RECOMMENDED**

**— CONSENT AGENDA (Articles 2–18) —**

**ARTICLE 2. CONSENT**

To see if the Town will vote **to authorize the Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements during Fiscal Year 2025**, as permitted by Massachusetts General Laws (MGL), Chapter 44, Section 53F; or act in relation thereto.

**ARTICLE 3. CONSENT**

To see if the Town will vote **to use the income of the William B. Spooner Fund as of March 31 of the current fiscal year at the Petersham Memorial Library for Fiscal Year 2025** or act in relation thereto.

**ARTICLE 4. CONSENT**

To see if the Town will vote for the Treasurer **to use the Elizabeth Newton Charities Trust Fund and Elizabeth Newton Deserving Poor Trust Fund for assistance to Petersham veterans approved for benefits by Massachusetts Department of Veteran’s Services** through the Local Veterans’ Service Office for Fiscal Year 2025; or act in relation thereto.

**ARTICLE 5. CONSENT**

To see if the Town will vote **for the Conservation Commission to use the accumulated interest from the Evelyn V. Murphy Conservation Fund** as of March 31 of the current fiscal year for Fiscal Year 2025; or act in relation thereto.

#### ARTICLE 6. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote **for the Conservation Commission to use the accumulated interest from the Lewis and Corrine Babbitt Wildlife Sanctuary Fund** as of March 31 of the current fiscal year, to be used at the Sanctuary for Fiscal Year 2025; or act in relation thereto.

#### ARTICLE 7. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ to be expended by the Treasurer **for fees due to the Electrical Inspector, Gas Inspector, and Plumbing Inspector**; the Accountant shall be authorized to effect transfers from this account as required to cover vouchers submitted for payment upon verification that the disbursement requested does not exceed receipts to date; and expenditures from said Revolving Fund shall not exceed **\$20,000** for Fiscal Year 2025; or act in relation thereto.

#### ARTICLE 8. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ to be expended by the Treasurer **for fees due to the Fire Chief**; the Accountant shall be authorized to effect transfers from this account as required to cover vouchers submitted for payment upon verification that the disbursement requested does not exceed receipts to date; and expenditures from said Revolving Fund shall not exceed **\$4,000** for Fiscal Year 2025; or act in relation thereto.

#### ARTICLE 9. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize the **Town Clerk to deposit fee income generated from certificates, DBA's, Dog Fees, Genealogy, etc.** into a Revolving Fund account for payment of fees due as submitted for payment by the Town Clerk pursuant to the provisions of state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½, said fund to be established from receipts of said income; and expenditures shall not exceed **\$2,600** or Fiscal Year 2025; or act in relation thereto.

#### ARTICLE 10. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the **Tax Collector to deposit fee income generated from collection of taxes** into a Revolving Fund account for payment of fees due

as submitted for payment by the Tax Collector pursuant to the provisions of state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, said fund to be established from receipts of said income; and expenditures shall not exceed **\$10,000** for Fiscal Year 2025; or act in relation thereto.

#### **ARTICLE 11. CONSENT**

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund, pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ for **deposits of all receipts for grave openings and from which the Selectboard and Cemetery Commission may make expenditures** to pay the costs thereof; and expenditures from said Revolving Fund shall not exceed **\$4,000** for Fiscal Year 2025; or act in relation thereto.

#### **ARTICLE 12. CONSENT**

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ for **deposits of fees collected under the Petersham School Committee Fee Schedule for use of the Petersham School Building**, to be expended by the Petersham School Committee for the purpose of repairs to the Building and replacement of equipment associated with the use of the Facility; and expenditures from said Revolving Fund shall not exceed **\$2,000** for Fiscal Year 2025; or act in relation thereto.

#### **ARTICLE 13. CONSENT**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize a Revolving Fund, pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ to be **expended by the Conservation Commission to pay for services and fees charged for the filing of hearing applications, to include retrieval fees, legal notices, clerical fees, postage fees, and the carrying out of duties required**; said fund to be established from receipts collected by the Conservation Commission and expenditures from said Revolving Fund shall not exceed **\$5,000** for Fiscal Year 2025; or act in relation thereto.

#### **ARTICLE 14. CONSENT**

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund, pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ and pursuant to Local Cultural Council Regulations at 962 CMR 2:05, for **deposits of local funds collected by the Petersham Cultural Council**, to be

expended by the Petersham Cultural Council for the purpose of carrying out its duties; and expenditures from said Revolving Fund shall not exceed **\$3,000** for Fiscal Year 2025; or act in relation thereto.

#### **ARTICLE 15. CONSENT**

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund, pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ to be expended by the **Board of Health, to pay for consulting services as required by the Board of Health, said fund to be established from receipts collected by the Board of Health for fees for its services**; and expenditures from said Revolving Fund shall not exceed **\$10,000** for Fiscal Year 2025; or act in relation thereto.

#### **ARTICLE 16. CONSENT**

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ for deposits of **fees collected under the Planning Board Rules and Regulations Fee Schedule, to be expended by the Planning Board for the purpose of carrying out its duties**; and expenditures from said Revolving Fund shall not exceed **\$1,000** for Fiscal Year 2025; or act in relation thereto.

#### **ARTICLE 17. CONSENT**

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ **for deposits of fees collected under the Zoning Board of Appeals Rules and Regulations Fee Schedule, to be expended by the Zoning Board of Appeals for the purposes of carrying out its duties**; and expenditures from said Revolving Fund shall not exceed **\$3,000** for Fiscal Year 2025; or act in relation thereto.

#### **ARTICLE 18. CONSENT**

To see if the Town will vote to accept and **expend Chapter 90 Funds from the State for the purposes of road work**, said expenditures to be 100% reimbursed by the State; or act in relation thereto.

**RECOMMENDED**

**ARTICLE 19.**

**Fiscal Year 2025 OPERATING BUDGET**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, approve subject to Proposition 2 1/2 Over-ride, or any combination thereof, **all necessary sums of money to pay Town Charges and Expenses for the Fiscal Year 2025 as per budgets submitted by the several Town Departments, as approved by the Advisory Finance Committee, and as listed in the budget pages of this Report**, or any other amounts deemed to be sufficient; or act in relation thereto.

**RECOMMENDED**

**ARTICLE 20.**

To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries of all Elective Town Officers as provided in Section 108 of Chapter 41, General Laws as amended: **Moderator \$0; Town Treasurer \$21,781; Town Clerk \$16,380; Tax Collector \$16,380; Selectboard, Chair \$3,846; Vice Chair \$3,331, Clerk \$3,136; Board of Assessors, Chair \$3,846, Clerk \$3,331, other member \$3,136; Board of Health, Chair \$245, other members \$181 each; Trustee of Library \$0; Constables \$14.96/per hour**; or act in relation thereto.

**RECOMMENDED**

**ARTICLE 21.**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$104,400** to pay the Fiscal Year 2025 **principal and interest due on the construction note for the Petersham Center School building construction**; or act in relation thereto.

**RECOMMENDED**

**ARTICLE 22.**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$18,831** to pay the Fiscal Year 2025 **principal and interest due on the construction note for the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District school building construction**; or act in relation thereto.

**RECOMMENDED**

**ARTICLE 23.**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$43,952** to pay the **principal and interest due on the note for debt incurred for asbestos and hazardous materials removal at the town-owned building known as the Nichewaug Inn & Academy located at 25 Common Street**; as approved by vote of the Special Town Meeting of December 12, 2016; or act in relation thereto.

**RECOMMENDED**

**ARTICLE 24.**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$32,240** to pay the **principal and interest due on the note for debt incurred for project expenses for completion of the town-wide broadband network project**; as approved by vote of the Special Town Meeting of December 12, 2016; or act in relation thereto.

**RECOMMENDED**

**ARTICLE 25.**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$37,800** to pay the **principal and interest due on the note for debt incurred for purchase of the 2020 Quick Attack Pumper Truck for the Fire Department**; as approved by vote of the Annual Town Meeting of June 3, 2019; or act in relation thereto.

**RECOMMENDED**

**ARTICLE 26.**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$86,513.06** to pay the **principal and interest due on the note for debt incurred for demolition of the town-owned building known as the Nichewaug Inn & Academy located at 25 Common Street**; as approved by vote of the Special Town Meeting of June 6, 2022; or act in relation thereto.

**RECOMMENDED**

**ARTICLE 27.**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$19,840** to pay the **principal and interest due on the note for debt incurred for purchase of the Highway Truck with plow and sander**; as approved by vote of the Annual Town Meeting on June 21, 2021; or act in relation thereto.

**RECOMMENDED**

**ARTICLE 28.**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$5,000** for **Board of Assessors' Year Five of Five Years of payments for the Full Measure and List** of all real estate and personal property as required by State Law; or to act in relation thereto.

**RECOMMENDED**

**ARTICLE 29.**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$30,000** for **deposit into the Reserve Fund** for Fiscal Year 2024; or act in relation thereto.

**RECOMMENDED**

**ARTICLE 30.**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds the sum of **\$30,000.00** to the Petersham Municipal Light Plant Broadband Enterprise Fund for Fiscal Year 2025

town-wide broadband network operations; with **said funds to be raised from Broadband Network Subscriber's Fees receipts and funds from any source derived from the activities of the Town's Municipal Light Plant Broadband Board**; or act in relation thereto.

**RECOMMENDED**

**ARTICLE 31.**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$2,000** for **payment to purchase services for archiving and preservation of certain Town Records by the Town Clerk**; or to act in relation thereto.

**RECOMMENDED**

**ARTICLE 32.**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$10,000 for foundation repairs to the Fire Department building**; or act in relation thereto.

**RECOMMENDED**

**ARTICLE 33.**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$1,800 for six (6) Petersham Brass Band concerts at \$300 per concert**, to be held during the summer; or to act in relation thereto.

**VOTER PREFERENCE**

**ARTICLE 34.**

To see if the Town will vote **to take the accumulated interest from the Consolidated Cemetery Fund 1 and 2, the E.M. Cook Cemetery Trust Fund, the L.L. Pond Cemetery Fund, and the William Smith Cemetery Fund for deposit into the Cemetery Repair Fund**, said fund to be expended by the Cemetery Commission for Cemetery improvements; or act in relation thereto.

**RECOMMENDED**

**ARTICLE 35.**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Petersham By-laws, currently, codified as **Article II, Section 4a** in the Town's General By-laws, as follows, such changes being shown in a



copy of the full Zoning By-laws on file in the office of the Town Clerk, as show below with new text in bold and deleted text in strikethrough:

The number of voters necessary to constitute a quorum at any Town meeting shall be ~~(10) ten per cent~~ **(7.5) seven and a half percent** of the voters registered as of the previous January 1, but any number may adjourn any meeting to a stated time and place; or act in relation thereto.

## VOTER PREFERENCE

### ARTICLE 36.

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Petersham By-laws, currently, codified as **Article VII, Section 8** in the Town's General By-laws, as follows, such changes being shown in a copy of the full Zoning By-laws on file in the office of the Town Clerk, as show below with new text in **bold**:

The Superintendent of Streets or Police Department will have authority, for the purpose of removing or plowing snow or removing ice from any public way, to remove, or cause to be removed, to some convenient place, including in such term a public garage, any vehicle interfering with such work, and the owner of such vehicle shall be liable for the cost of such removal and storage charges, if so notified. Furthermore, no person other than an employee in the service of the Town or an employee in the service of an independent contractor acting for the Town shall pile, push, or plow snow, ~~or ice,~~ **or vegetative debris** onto a public way so as to impede the flow of traffic on such way. Whoever violates this section shall be punished by the penalty so stated in this Article VII.

or act in relation thereto.

## VOTER PREFERENCE

### ARTICLE 37.

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning By-law, SECTION 20, TOWNWIDE RATE OF DEVELOPMENT, and SECTION 5.B, Uses Which May Be Allowed, by deleting SECTION 20 in its entirety, and by deleting paragraph v, Conference Center, and paragraph w, Inn and/or health education center, in SECTION 5.B as shown below:

~~v. A Conference Center to be utilized and occupied as a unit for business use and to be located in a structure containing at least 60,000 square feet of floor space (measured by American Institute of Architecture Standards) and existing as of June 1, 1988. The Conference Center may included residential and lodging facilities for staff and participants. Such use shall not include a restaurant or bar open to the public or a night club of any sort and shall not allow the landing of helicopters on the property. The~~

applicant at his or her expense shall submit a comprehensive environmental impact study by a licensed environmental consultant as part of the application.

~~w. Inn and/or health education center including the operation of a restaurant/bar with a full-liquor license, in a building pre-existing the passage of this By-law.~~

or act in relation thereto.

## VOTER PREFERENCE

### ARTICLE 38.

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning By-law, SECTION 10, ENFORCEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION, as shown below, with new text in **bold** and deleted text in strikethrough:

4. Application for a permit for a building or other structure shall be accompanied by a Disposal Works Construction Permit issued by the Board of Health. Also, and a plan showing the dimensions of the lot, and the proposed location of the structure. ~~All plans submitted~~ shall be reviewed by **both** the Planning Board **and the Conservation Commission** prior to the issuance of a permit by the Building Inspector. ~~Each such plan shall remain as part of the Town records.~~

or act in relation thereto.

## VOTER PREFERENCE

### ARTICLE 39.

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning By-law, SECTION 5.A, Permitted Uses, and SECTION 19, SUBDIVISIONS, by making clerical corrections to paragraph g. of SECTION 5.A and subsection B., Definitions, and subsection C.2(b), Applicability, of SECTION 19, as shown below, with new text in **bold** and deleted text in strikethrough:

(SECTION 5.A)

- g. Removal of soil, loam, sand or gravel subject to Section 17 ~~ARTICLE XVI, Section 5E~~ of the By-laws to the extent authorized thereunder.

(SECTION 19)

B. Definitions

ANR: For the purposes of this Section ~~5B-19~~ . . .

C.2 Applicability:

- (b) The subdivision approval and any requested special permit approvals provided for in this Section ~~4B-19~~ . . .

or act in relation thereto.

**VOTER PREFERENCE**

**ARTICLE 40.**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Petersham By-laws, currently, codified as **Article III, Section 3b** in the Town’s General By-laws, as follows, such changes being shown in a copy of the full Zoning By-laws on file in the office of the Town Clerk, as show below with new text in **bold** and deleted text in strikethrough:

The Petersham Capital Improvement Planning Committee (PCIP) shall study all proposed projects and improvements involving major non-recurring tangible assets and projects which 1) are purchased or undertaken at intervals of not less than three (3) years; 2) have a useful life of at least three (3) years; and/or 3) cost over ~~\$5,000~~ **\$10,000** (“Capital Improvements”). All officers, boards, and committees including the Selectboard and Petersham Center School Committee, shall, by ~~February~~ **March 15** of each year, give the PCIP, on forms prepared by It, information concerning all anticipated Capital Improvements requiring Town Meeting action during the ensuing six (6) years.

or act in relation thereto.

**VOTER PREFERENCE**

**ARTICLE 41.**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, transfer, borrow, or any combination thereof; **a certain amount for deposit into the Stabilization Fund**; or act in relation thereto

. . .

~ **END OF WARRANT** ~

4/5/24									
<b>PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL</b>									
<b>FY 2025 BUDGET</b>									
			<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>	<b>PERCENT OF</b>		
	<b>ACCOUNT</b>		<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>	<b>(DECREASE)</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>		
	1000	District Leadership	58,433	62,870	4,437	7.59%	2.64%		
	2100/2200	School Building Leadership	149,282	155,713	6,431	4.31%	6.53%		
	2354	Building Technology	53,810	57,347	3,537	6.57%	2.40%		
	2300	General Instruction	692,461	838,675	146,214	21.12%	35.17%		
	3200	Other School Services	77,227	76,739	-488	-0.63%	3.22%		
	3370	Transportation	135,841	163,640	27,799	20.46%	6.86%		
	4000	Operations & Maintenance	256,845	274,382	17,537	6.83%	11.51%		
	5200	Fixed Charges	249,010	203,000	-46,010	-18.48%	8.51%		
	9000	Special Education	<u>541,307</u>	<u>552,233</u>	<u>10,926</u>	<u>2.02%</u>	23.16%		
		<b>TOTAL BUDGET *</b>	<b>2,214,216</b>	<b>2,384,599</b>	<b>170,383</b>	<b>7.69%</b>			

**Petersham Center School FY2025 Budget**

**RALPH C. MAHAR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
FY 2025 BUDGET & ASSESSMENTS**

5/20/2024 Approved by School Committee	<u>Total</u>	<u>New Salem</u>	<u>Orange</u>	<u>Petersham</u>	<u>Wendell</u>
FY 2025 Proposed Budget	15,796,324				
Less Debt	185,959				
Less Transportation					
Pupil Transportation	1,090,500				
SpEd Transportation	<u>467,916</u>				
Net School Spending	14,051,949				
Less Other Revenue	1,000,495				
Less Chapter 70 Aid	<u>6,263,550</u>				
Net Budget	6,787,904				
Minimum Local Contribution (MLC) required by Ed Reform	2,902,560	276,140	1,849,455	515,164	261,801
Difference between MLC and Net Budget Balance	3,885,344				
Foundation Enrollment (as of 10/1/2023)	553	26	429	56	42
Apportion Percentage	100.00%	<b>4.7016%</b>	<b>77.5769%</b>	<b>10.1266%</b>	<b>7.5949%</b>
Apportion 24D amount by agreement		182,674	3,014,128	393,453	295,089
Transportation Budget	1,558,416				
Less Aid to Transportation Preliminary	<u>764,310</u>				
Net Transportation	794,106	37,336	616,042	80,416	60,312
Debt Payments					
Not Subject to Prop 2 1/2	0	0	0	0	0
Total Assessments, MLC plus apportionments	7,582,010	496,150	5,479,625	989,032	617,202
Excess & Deficiency	300,000	14,105	232,731	30,380	22,785
FY 2025 Assessment Not Exempt from Prop 2 1/2	7,282,010	482,045	5,246,895	958,653	594,417
Debt Payments Subject to Prop 2 1/2 (School Construction)	185,959	8,743	144,261	18,831	14,123
Exempt					
Total FY 2025 Assessment	<b>7,467,969</b>	<b>490,789</b>	<b>5,391,156</b>	<b>977,484</b>	<b>608,541</b>

RALPH C. MAHAR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

FY 2025 BUDGET & ASSESSMENTS

5/20/2024	Approved by School Committee	Foundation Enrollment	Non-Exempt	Exempt (School Constr)	Total
<b>New Salem</b>					
	FY2025 Assessment	26	482,045	8,743	490,789
	FY2024 Assessment	35	634,630	12,266	646,896
	Dollar Increase		(152,585)	(3,523)	(156,107)
	Percent Increase		-24.04%	-28.72%	-24.13%
<b>Orange</b>					
	FY2025 Assessment	429	5,246,895	144,261	5,391,156
	FY2024 Assessment	426	5,340,668	149,293	5,489,961
	Dollar Increase		(93,773)	(5,032)	(98,805)
	Percent Increase		-1.76%	-3.37%	-1.80%
<b>Petersham</b>					
	FY2025 Assessment	56	958,653	18,831	977,484
	FY2024 Assessment	55	961,242	19,275	980,517
	Dollar Increase		(2,589)	(444)	(3,033)
	Percent Increase		-0.27%	-2.30%	-0.31%
<b>Wendell</b>					
	FY2025 Assessment	42	594,417	14,123	608,541
	FY2024 Assessment	35	499,008	12,266	511,274
	Dollar Increase		95,409	1,857	97,267
	Percent Increase		19.12%	15.14%	19.02%

# Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School

## COMMUNITY ASSESSMENTS

COMMUNITIES	FISCAL YEAR 2025							PROPOSED ASSESSMENT FY'2025	FY 2024 APPROVED		
	FY2025 FOUNDATION ENROLLMENT	FOUNDATION BUDGET	(1) REQUIRED MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION	(2) TRANSPORT/ OPERATING ASSESS.	(3) CAPITAL ASSESS.	(4) BONDS	FOUNDATION ENROLLMENT		ASSESSMENT FY2024	CHANGE FY'24 ~ FY'25	
	Ashburnham	64	1,296,490	594,898	21,158	12,551	0		628,607	72	641,300
Ashby	31	627,987	326,741	10,248	5,719	0	342,708	37	392,887	(50,179)	
Athol	104	2,106,797	317,289	34,382	22,618	0	374,289	111	382,300	(8,011)	
Barre	45	911,595	349,180	14,877	8,725	0	372,782	42	340,067	32,714	
Fitchburg	386	7,819,457	1,789,644	127,610	75,614	0	1,992,868	363	1,863,115	129,753	
Gardner	166	3,362,772	963,177	54,879	34,134	0	1,052,190	173	1,107,341	(55,151)	
Harvard	9	182,319	144,440	2,975	12,191	0	159,606	8	110,500	49,106	
Holden	148	2,998,134	1,707,486	48,928	41,415	0	1,797,829	130	1,539,832	257,996	
Hubbardston	32	648,245	340,398	10,579	6,161	0	357,138	40	447,411	(90,273)	
Lunenburg	99	2,005,508	1,172,061	32,729	20,856	0	1,225,646	97	1,181,390	44,256	
Petersham	12	243,092	134,917	3,967	1,851	0	140,735	11	130,375	10,360	
Phillipston	24	486,184	244,909	7,934	2,609	0	255,452	22	237,334	18,118	
Princeton	25	506,442	398,251	8,265	5,712	0	412,228	25	415,820	(3,592)	
Royalston	11	222,834	80,006	3,637	1,801	0	85,444	10	76,755	8,689	
Sterling	66	1,337,006	1,098,747	21,819	12,166	0	1,132,732	61	1,018,231	114,501	
Templeton	87	1,762,416	604,478	28,762	13,992	0	647,232	83	588,189	59,043	
Westminster	71	1,438,294	767,439	23,472	15,570	0	806,481	74	812,489	(6,008)	
Winchendon	96	1,944,735	614,171	31,737	16,315	0	662,223	106	706,060	(43,837)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,476</b>	<b>29,900,307</b>	<b>11,648,232</b>	<b>487,958</b>	<b>310,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12,446,190</b>	<b>1,465</b>	<b>11,991,397</b>	<b>454,793</b>	

# Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School

## FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET SUMMARY

	FINAL <u>FY'2024</u>	PROPOSED <u>FY'2025</u>	<u>DIFF</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Net School Spending	29,486,021	30,011,216	525,195	1.78%
Transportation	2,399,080	2,516,010	116,930	4.87%
Above Net School Spending	150,000	296,948	146,948	97.97%
Capital Budget ~ Equipment	490,000	460,000	(30,000)	-6.12%
Vehicles	10,000	50,000	40,000	400.00%
BONDS (Principal & Interest)	0	0	0	0.00%
	_____	_____	_____	
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$32,535,101</b>	<b>\$33,334,174</b>	<b>\$799,073</b>	2.46%
<b>Less Revenues:</b> Estimated Ch. 70	18,318,704	18,362,984	44,280	0.24%
<b>(1) REQUIRED MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION</b>	<b>\$11,167,317</b>	<b>\$11,648,232</b>	<b>\$480,915</b>	4.31%
<b>Transportation &amp; Other Operating Budget</b>	\$2,549,080	\$2,812,958	\$263,878	10.35%
<b>Less:</b> Estimated Transportation Aid	1,700,000	1,925,000	225,000	13.2%
Regional Transportation Fund	75,000	150,000	75,000	100.0%
Excess & Deficiency	250,000	250,000	0	0.0%
	_____	_____	_____	
<b>(2) NET TRANSPORTATION &amp; OTHER OPERATING</b>	<b>\$524,080</b>	<b>\$487,958</b>	<b>(\$36,122)</b>	-6.89%
<b>Capital Budget ~ (Equipment &amp; Vehicles)</b>	\$500,000	\$510,000	\$10,000	2.00%
<b>Less:</b> Excess & Deficiency	200,000	200,000	0	0.0%
	_____	_____	_____	
<b>(3) NET CAPITAL ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>\$310,000</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	3.33%
<b>BONDS</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
<b>Less:</b> School Building Authority Aid	0	0	0	0.0%
	_____	_____	_____	
<b>(4) NET BONDS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	0.00%
<b>TOTAL ASSESSMENT (All Budgets)</b>	<b>\$11,991,397</b>	<b>\$12,446,190</b>	<b>\$454,793</b>	3.79%



Capital Improvement Planning Committee  
Fiscal Year 2025  
Capital Project Recommendations

To the Citizens of Petersham:

The Capital Improvement Planning Committee has met as required by the By-laws of the Town of Petersham. We have reviewed the various projects submitted and present the following as our Capital Improvement recommendations for Fiscal Year 2025.

- 1.) \$7,000.00 to continue the preservation of Town Records by the Town Clerk.
- 2.) \$10,000.00 to repair the foundation of the Fire Station.

The CIPC believes that this Capital Budget is reasonable and necessary.

The CIPC hopes that the Selectboard, Finance Committee and Townspeople will see the need for these items and support our recommendations that we feel are affordable given the information supplied to the committee from various sources.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Robinson, Ch.  
Susan Dougherty  
Mark Bishop  
John Lawson  
Irene Graeff  
Lynn Perdina  
Hillary Loring



**SPECIAL & ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
PETERSHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

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**MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024**

**7:00 PM**

**PETERSHAM TOWN HALL**

**3 South Main St, Petersham**



**The Special Town Meeting begins at 7:00 PM**

**The Annual Town Meeting immediately follows the**

**Special Town Meeting**

Residents who are registered voters are encouraged to attend Town Meeting. If you are not a registered voter in the Town of Petersham, you must receive permission from Town Moderator to gain admittance to the main floor. If you have questions or need assistance, please inquire with the Town Clerk and Town Meeting checkers at the front door. Exterior seating will be available



Please arrive a little early to check in, get seated, and achieve a quorum so the Meeting can begin on time.