

**Report of the
Petersham Advisory Finance Committee
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016**

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
PETERSHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
JUNE 1, 2015**



ON THE COVER:
Petersham Center Cemetery

About Petersham's Cemeteries

Petersham's cemeteries are places of comfort and sorrow, of honor and remembrance. Though made up of individual life stories and family memories, they are alive with history and as a whole they tell the story of the community from its beginnings to current day. They are a key part of Petersham's beautiful, working, historic landscape.

The oversight for care and maintenance of the town's cemeteries lies primarily with the Petersham Cemetery Commission. With the support of taxpayers' approval of funding combined with trust funds set up for perpetual care and assistance from volunteers, the town cares for nine main cemeteries:

- Center Cemetery (*South Main Street*)
- East Street Cemetery (*East Street*)
- Flat Rock Cemetery (*Flat Rock Road*)
- Goddard Cemetery (*Hardwick Road*)
- Ledgeville Cemetery (*East Street*)
- Mann Cemetery (*North Main Street*)
- Nichewaug Cemetery (*Glen Valley Road*)
- West Road Cemetery (*West Road*)
- Williamsville Cemetery (*Old East Street*)

Additional cemeteries are sprinkled across Petersham including the Town Farm Cemetery marked with a single 1913 monument erected by the town, the Chamberlain Cemetery, and the Howe Cemetery. The former Lincoln Cemetery, Snow Cemetery, and the Old Shaker Burying Ground were relocated when the Quabbin Reservoir construction began in the 1930s.

The Petersham Cemetery Commission was established in 1989 and is composed of seven members who meet monthly. A town Sexton works with the Commission and families for burials.

Among other duties the Commission maps the cemeteries; contracts for the care of the grounds, trees, and stonewalls; works with town departments such as the Highway Department and Tree Warden when necessary for maintenance; works on repair of damaged gravestones and structures; organizes tours, workshops, and special events; and answers inquiries from families and historians.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF
BARBARA HANNO AND NANCY ALLEN



PICTURED TOP TO BOTTOM:
Historic gravestones in the Nichewaug Cemetery.
Gravestone repair workshop sponsored by the Cemetery Commission.
Visiting historian works at the Howe Cemetery.
Special "Ghost Walk" event featuring current day residents including Cemetery Commission members portraying residents from the past.



Report of the Petersham Advisory Finance Committee

FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

Annual Town Meeting
June 1, 2015
Petersham Town Hall
Petersham, Massachusetts

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Report from the Petersham Advisory Finance Committee

For Fiscal Year 2016

Summary

This year's tax appropriation will be approximately \$45,000 less than last year, leading to a reduction of about \$0.40/\$1,000 in the tax rate.

Our overall fiscal health

Despite many challenges, our Town finances are in good order. This was made clear on February 24, 2014, when Standard & Poor's Ratings Services upgraded Petersham's credit rating from A to AA+ (i.e., to the second highest possible rating). In their report S&P wrote:

We consider Petersham's economy to be very strong. In our opinion, the town's budgetary flexibility is very strong. Petersham's budgetary performance has been what we view as strong. Supporting the town's finances is what we consider to be very strong liquidity. We view Petersham's management conditions as adequate. In our opinion, Petersham's debt and contingent liability profile is strong.

Fiscal goals and efforts

The Town's good financial position is due largely to a combination of goals and efforts:

1. The primary goal and responsibility of the Advisory Finance Committee is to craft a budget that provides essential services within the constraints of Proposition 2 1/2. We cannot do this alone: it requires budgetary discipline from all of our Town departments. Each year we request that departments begin with a level-funded budget and justify any necessary increases. In general, our departments respond to this request with integrity and honesty, even as we press for justification of any significant increases. At the same time, we all realize that there will be inevitable increases due to factors beyond our direct control (including changes in; state aid, health insurance rates, liability insurance rates, retirement costs and variable assessments for Mahar and Montachusett based on enrollment rates).
2. We strive to keep the general operating budget well under the Proposition 2 1/2 levy limit, in order to be able to fund special articles i.e., so-called "non-operating expenses." Last year, for example, the Town voted to spend more than \$200,000 on CIPC capital improvement projects (highway cab and chassis, fire protection, police cruiser, cemetery stone wall repair).
3. We try to ensure that our Town employees are treated fairly and reasonably, recommending raises that are affordable and sustainable. This year we are able to recommend a 2.5% increase for all non-contract Town employees.
4. We avoid using Free Cash to pay for general operating expenses, because the amount of Free Cash varies considerably from year to year (in FY2015 we had \$133,000 in Free Cash, while this year we have only \$31,000). We generally want to limit the use of free cash to payment for CIPC capital improvement articles or to fund an increase in the Stabilization Fund.
5. We try to plan for future contingencies by means of the Stabilization Fund, which is our Town "savings account." The importance of these efforts was called out specifically in the S&P report, which lauded our "strong liquidity" (that's the Stabilization Fund).

In planning for this year's FY2016 budget, we instituted a new goal of keeping the total budget (general budget + special articles) approximately \$100,000 under the Proposition 2 1/2 levy limit. We need to do this in order to deal with late-breaking revenue shortfalls, a problem which happened last year. You will thus see a surplus of approximately \$125,000 at the bottom of the Report on page 5. This is an additional amount that could be raised by taxation.

The Fiscal Year 2016 operating budget

Noteworthy changes in the upcoming FY2016 budget include:

1. We saw an unexpected decrease in our Worcester County retirement assessment (approximately \$67,000).
2. Highway Department salaries increased by about \$13,000 because of a necessary shift away from budgeted use of Chapter 90 (state highway repair) funds for salaries.
3. Snow Removal costs have been budgeted about \$14,000 more for FY16 based upon experience of recent years.
4. Our Mahar assessment decreased by approximately \$25,000 (largely due to an enrollment decrease).
5. The Montachusett assessment increased nearly \$7,000 (largely due to enrollment increase).
6. The Petersham Center School budget was kept at FY2015 levels.

Overall, the Town's general operating budget (not including special articles) is approximately \$19,000 less than last year.

Special Articles

This year we have about \$100,000 less Free Cash than we did in FY2015. Since Free Cash generally is used to fund CIPC and other special articles, we have limited the number of CIPC requests this year. Among the noteworthy special articles are the following:

1. Article 30. The AFC is recommending an increase in the Reserve Fund from \$25,000 to \$35,000 due to uncertainties related to possible continued contamination the Town well, the Heywood development of the Sisters of Assumption property and unforeseen costs related to actions involving the Nichewaug Inn.
2. Article 31 (Tri-Annual Reassessment) and Article 32 (Mapping) are required of us by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. We recommend these articles in order to comply with State law.
3. Article 33 (Replacement Air Packs), Article 34 (Handicap Accessible Ramp), Article 35 (Fire Hose Replacement), and Article 36 (Snow Plow Blade) are CIPC recommendations. We support these Articles as part of the Town's ongoing capital improvement plan.
4. Article 40 was requested by the Advisory Finance Committee to ensure that the Town is in a position to identify and impose protective conditions on the sale, transfer, asbestos abatement, or demolition of the Nichewaug property. In particular, we believe that professional aid will be required to protect the Town against failure on the part of a developer. Thus, we need to clarify the conditions under which we can monitor and evaluate development progress, then write these conditions into the transfer agreement. We have long been planning for contingencies related to the Nichewaug Inn by asking you to build up the Stabilization Fund. In this Article, for the first time, we are asking you to transfer funds from the Stabilization Fund to pay for potential services related to the Nichewaug.
5. Article 41 was requested by the Energy Committee to initiate plans for a new heating system at the Center School. It is expected that the money appropriated in this Article will be returned to the Town as Free Cash next year and that funding for the heating system itself also will come from future grants. We support this Article as a way to pursue a new Center School heating system at little or no cost to the Town.
6. Article 45 concerns creation of a "municipal light plant" as part of the effort to bring high-speed broadband internet service to the Town. The Broadband Committee has stated that approval of this Article carries no financial implications, but at the time of this writing, we do not have enough information to make a proper evaluation.
7. Article 49 is a Citizens' Petition to take money from the Stabilization Fund to lower this year's tax rate. We are adamantly opposed to this Article. We agree with Standard & Poor's assessment that our Stabilization Fund provides us with "strong liquidity" and financial flexibility, and that it is an essential component of our Town's fiscal health. A one-year decrease in the tax rate, at the expense of our long-term stability, is short-sighted.

Conclusion

This year's total budget will be approximately \$146,000 less than the FY2015 budget. The amount we need to raise by taxation will be approximately \$45,000 less than last year. In the absence of any other changes, voters can expect to see a decrease in the tax rate of about \$0.40/\$1000 over last year.

Glossary

Cherry Sheet: The Cherry Sheet is the official notification by the state Commissioner of Revenue to municipalities and school districts of estimated state aid to be paid and charges to be assessed over the next fiscal year. As the state budget process unfolds updated local aid proposals are posted. Final Cherry Sheets are issued once the state budget is enacted by the Legislature and approved by the Governor. In the past, the Cherry Sheet came to the towns on cherry red paper, now it is all electronic.

Excess Levy Capacity: If a community sets its property tax levy, exclusive of amounts that are subject to debt exclusions, below its levy limit, the difference between those is referred to as excess levy capacity. This is an additional amount of money a community can choose to raise for that given year and still remain under the Proposition 2 1/2 levy limit.

Free Cash: This is the money that the town appropriated at town meeting the year before that was unspent during the fiscal year. At the end of the fiscal year it is accounted for and the books are sent to the State Department of Revenue (DOR) to be certified. Once the amount is certified it can be used either during the current fiscal year or in the budget for the next year. It can only be appropriated by town meeting. If it is not appropriated it goes back into Free Cash for the next year. While the amount varies considerably from year to year, typically we have around \$100,000 in free cash annually.

Levy Limit: The levy limit is the maximum amount a community can tax in a given year, exclusive of any amounts that are voted as debt excluded. The annual increase in the levy limit in any given year is limited to 2.5% by State law.

Property Tax Levy: The property tax levy is the revenue a community actually raises through real and personal property taxes in a given year. The property tax levy is the largest source of revenue for Petersham. This figure includes previously voted commitments to projects utilizing debt and capital exclusions such as the school construction projects and vehicle purchases.

ReCap Sheet: A document submitted by cities and towns to the DOR in order to set the local property tax rate. The recap sheet shows all estimated revenues and actual appropriations that affect the property tax rate.

Reserve Fund: Every year, the town sets aside a reserve fund that can be appropriated by the Advisory Finance Committee together with the Selectboard at their discretion. This allows for unanticipated expenditures by any department that are not provided for in the budget. The advantage of this is that we do not have to call a Special Town Meeting to meet these expenses, but it allows for only limited amount of money to be used. If we need more we need to call a Town Meeting.

Revolving Fund: Certain departments collect fees for a particular service, such as the Board of Health will collect a fee for the design review of a septic system. The Board may then hire a professional septic engineer to review the plans to make sure they are in compliance with the state's Title 5 Regulations and local codes. The fees are put into the revolving funds and the inspector's fee is paid out of this fund.

Stabilization Fund: This is an amount of money that the town sets aside to use if there are emergency needs or if there are capital outlay expenses that need to be covered. It can only be appropriated at a town meeting by a 2/3 vote of the voters present at the meeting. Remember that Petersham has a requirement that at least 10% of the registered voters must be present for a quorum before the meeting can begin.

Town of Petersham

Annual Town Meeting – June 1, 2015

Report to the Voters from the Advisory Finance Committee
 Fiscal Year 2016 (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016)

Dear Voters,

Please read this Report prior to the Special & Annual Town Meetings at Petersham Town Hall on Monday, June 1, 2015, at 7:30 PM. When questions arise, the Advisory Finance Committee, Selectboard, School Committees, and/or others, will answer your questions as best as they can.

The sum of the GENERAL BUDGET (Sheets shown on Report pp. 7– 11) and the Special Articles (shown on Report pp. 13) is the TOTAL PETERSHAM BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 and is shown in summary below.

		FY2016 AFC Recommended	FY2016 Original Request
<u>TOWN EXPENSES:</u>			
Selectboard's Budget - Appropriation	Pg. 7–11	\$1,280,947	\$1,280,947
Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District - Appropriation	Pg. 11 & 30–31	827,339	827,339
Montachusett Regional Tech School District - Appropriation	Pg. 11 & 32–33	64,257	64,257
Petersham Center School - Appropriation	Pg. 11 & 34–38	1,223,252	1,223,252
TOTAL GENERAL BUDGET		3,395,795	3,395,795
TOTAL SPECIAL ARTICLES Pg. 13		313,004	313,004
TOTAL PETERSHAM BUDGET		\$3,708,799	\$3,708,799
<u>TOWN REVENUE:</u>			
Massachusetts State Aid- Includes Chapter 70 Reimbursement of	\$425,758	\$604,010	\$604,010
Less: School Choice Outgoing		(31,654)	(31,654)
Local Receipts		664,277	664,277
Stabilization Fund		40,000	40,000
Free Cash		30,859	30,859
Surplus Overlay		-	-
Specified Vehicle Stabilization Funds - Police and Highway Funds		-	-
Specified Cemetery Funds		-	-
Specified Fund		-	-
Prop. 2-1/2 Levy Limit	\$2,430,641 * Tax Levy <input type="text" value="100.00%"/>	\$2,430,640	
Debt Exclusion - Petersham Center School	100,493		
Debt Exclusion - Ralph C. Mahar RSD	23,916		
Debt Exclusion - Fire Truck	21,200		
Total Tax Levy with Debt Exclusion		2,576,249	2,576,249
Less: Overlay Reserve		(50,000)	(50,000)
TOTAL PETERSHAM REVENUE		\$3,833,741	\$3,833,741
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		\$124,942	\$124,942

The Advisory Finance Committee has drafted a TOTAL PETERSHAM BUDGET that is at / under Proposition 2-1/2, and will NOT require an override election if all our recommendations are followed.

Respectfully submitted,
 Ross France, Chairman
 Robert Bellefeuille, Clerk
 Eric Mandel
 Don Clarkson
 Chuck Berube

Town of Petersham

Estimated Cherry Sheet

Estimated Cherry Sheet	FY2016	FY2015	FY2014
Education			
Chapter 70 – Aid for public elementary and secondary schools	425,758	424,308	422,883
State Fiscal Stabilization Fund	-	-	-
School Transportation	-	-	-
School Lunch	-	749	811
Sub-Total Education Items	425,758	425,057	423,694
	Change from last yr>	0.2%	1.3%
			1.0%
General Government			
Lottery	-	-	-
General Aid/Supplemental Lottery	-	-	-
Unrestricted General Government Aid	105,685	102,013	99,260
Annual Formula Local Aid	-	-	-
Room Tax Increase	-	-	-
Highway Fund	-	-	-
Veterans' Benefits	-	3,024	2,673
Exemptions: Vets, Blind & Surviving Spouse, Elderly	8,173	8,987	8,485
State Owned Land	64,145	64,145	76,166
Public Libraries	2,315	2,453	1,767
Sub-Total General Government	180,318	180,622	188,351
	Change from last yr>	-0.2%	2.9%
			7.3%
Total Estimated Cherry Sheet Receipts	606,076	605,679	612,045
Net Charges	(2,066)	(2,062)	(2,004)
TOTAL STATE AID	604,010	603,617	610,041
	Change from last yr>	0.1%	1.7%
			2.8%
School Choice Sending	(50,000)	(32,500)	(5,000)
School Choice Incoming	365,994	371,904	319,150
	972,070	977,583	924,977
Local Receipts			
	<u>Estimated</u>	<u>Estimated</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Motor Vehicle Excise	111,300	111,300	111,329
Penalties & Interest on Taxes & Excise	8,800	8,800	8,874
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	500,027	500,027	500,027
Fees	1,100	1,100	1,194
Rentals	500	500	625
Other Department Revenue (including Transfer Station Fees)	38,350	38,350	38,866
Licenses & Permits	3,300	3,300	2,813
Fines & Forfeits	100	100	82
Investment Income	800	800	841
Misc. Non recurring	-	-	-
Total Local Receipts	664,277	664,277	664,651
	Change from last yr>	0.0%	-0.1%
			-2.0%

Town of Petersham – General Budget Fiscal Year 2016

	Sheet	Requested FY2016	Recommended FY2016	FY2015	FY2014	FY2013	FY2012
Moderator Salary	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Expenses	1	70	70	70	70	70	70
Selectmen – Salaries	2	7,300	7,300	7,121	6,929	6,681	6,516
Part-time Office Assistant – Salary	2	5,124	5,124	4,999	4,864	5,918	5,228
Expenses	2	4,284	4,284	4,284	4,284	3,138	3,640
Legal Fees	3	7,000	7,000	7,000	2,000	10,000	10,000
Medicare	4	24,016	24,016	18,790	23,496	23,065	19,508
Unemployment	5	-	-	-	-	6,895	-
Administrative Coordinator – Salary	6	45,018	45,018	43,920	42,744	40,126	39,147
Administrative Coordinator – Overtime	7	814	814	794	772	751	732
Software Maintenance	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Central Telephone System	9	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	10,500	10,000
Audit	10	-	-	-	12,500	12,500	12,000
Town Hall & Office Building Maintenance	11	4,500	4,500	4,250	4,500	4,500	4,500
Treasurer – Salary	12	15,209	15,209	14,838	14,440	14,053	13,710
Expenses	12	4,085	4,085	3,960	3,875	3,860	3,700
Treasurer Account Bank Fees	13	1	1	1	1	1	1
Payroll Processing	14	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,290	3,100
Town Accountant – Salary	15	15,209	15,209	14,838	14,440	14,052	13,709
Accounting Clerk – Salary	15	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,177	1,145	1,117
Expenses	15	4,836	4,836	4,540	4,029	3,787	3,562
Printing (Town Reports, By-Laws, Valuation Books, Street Lists, etc.)	16	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,900
Tax Collector – Salary	17	12,807	12,807	11,811	11,494	11,186	10,913
Expenses	17	18,065	18,065	15,630	13,605	13,130	13,130
Tax Collector Account Bank Fees	18	-	-	-	-	-	-

Town of Petersham General Budget Fiscal Year 2016 (continued)

	Sheet	Requested FY2016	Recommended FY2016	FY2015	FY2014	FY2013	FY2012
Assessors – Salaries	19	8,050	8,050	7,852	7,641	7,434	7,251
Assistant Assessor – Salary	19	31,447	31,447	30,680	29,858	29,058	28,349
Expenses	19	14,330	14,330	16,990	17,190	14,350	12,500
Town Clerk – Salary	20	9,846	9,846	9,605	9,347	9,096	8,874
Town Clerk – Part-time Salary	20	618	618	602	585	569	555
Expenses	20	2,909	2,909	3,109	2,734	2,504	2,504
Land Court Fees	21	1	1	1	1	-	-
Vital Statistics	22	100	100	75	75	75	75
Election & Registration Salaries	23	4,100	4,100	6,100	2,100	5,900	3,700
Expenses	23	1,350	1,350	1,350	1,250	1,350	1,350
Planning Board – Admin. Salary	24	-	-	-	-	-	-
Expenses	24	300	300	300	300	300	300
Historic Commission Expense	25	85	85	85	85	83	80
Historic District Commission Expense	26	252	252	252	252	247	240
Advisory Finance Committee Expense	27	505	505	505	505	758	505
Town Hall and Town Office Expenses	28	28,142	28,142	28,140	27,540	26,684	29,815
Zoning Board	29	500	500	500	500	500	500
Consultant/Expenses	29	960	960	760	760	760	760
Computer Service	62	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	500	900
TOTAL GENERAL OFFICE & FINANCE		290,983	290,983	282,902	283,093	290,566	274,441
Change over previous year>>		2.9%	2.9%	-0.1%	-2.6%	5.9%	-0.5%

Town of Petersham – General Budget Fiscal Year 2016 (continued)

	Sheet	Requested FY2016	Recommended FY2016	FY2015	FY2014	FY2013	FY2012
HEALTH AND SANITATION							
Administration and Health							
Board of Health – Salaries	42	464	464	451	438	425	414
Administrative Assistant – Salary	42	5,931	5,931	5,786	5,631	5,480	5,346
Expenses	42	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,200	2,200	2,100
Inspector of Animals – Stipend	43	175	175	-	175	75	75
Transfer Station	65	52,000	52,000	52,076	51,980	52,092	52,072
HEALTH AND SANITATION TOTAL		61,270	61,270	61,013	60,424	60,272	60,007
Change over previous year>>		0.4%	0.4%	1.0%	0.3%	0.4%	-21.6%
HIGHWAY DEPT.							
Superintendent – Salary *	44	49,223	49,223	44,020	42,842	41,695	38,641
Other Staff – Salaries *	44	91,766	91,766	80,076	77,931	74,101	73,818
Town Barn Account	45	8,485	8,485	8,485	8,385	8,385	8,385
* (FY16 48 weeks - additional 4 weeks from Chap 90)							
General Highways	46	50,770	50,770	50,770	50,770	50,770	50,070
Snow Removal	47	55,000	55,000	40,726	40,358	40,000	40,000
Street Lights	48	6,500	6,500	6,305	6,305	6,305	6,305
HIGHWAY DEPT. TOTAL:		261,744	261,744	230,382	226,590	221,256	217,219
Change over previous year>>		13.6%	13.6%	1.7%	2.4%	1.9%	8.1%
CHARITIES AND VETERANS BENEFITS							
Veteran Agent – District allocation	49	3,978	3,978	}	}	}	}
Salaries	49	-	-				
Benefits	49	7,800	7,800				
CHARITIES AND VETERANS BENEFITS TOTAL:		11,778	11,778	7,589	7,186	3,186	3,316
Change over previous year>>		55.2%	55.2%	5.6%	125.5%	-3.9%	0.0%

Town of Petersham – General Budget Fiscal Year 2016 (continued)

UNCLASSIFIED

Library	50	9,050	9,050	8,933	8,900	6,860	6,588
Bandstand Lighting	51	325	325	325	325	325	425
Town Clock	52	73	73	73	73	73	73
County Retirement	53	125,965	125,965	193,098	154,980	99,031	72,919
Memorial Day	55	495	495	495	495	495	495
Care of Common	56	6,696	6,696	6,696	6,696	6,495	6,495
Interest	57	644	644	5,000	5,000	-	3,500
Grave Openings	58	-	-	-	-	-	-
Care of Cemeteries - Contract	59	20,523	20,523	19,196	19,196	19,152	16,564
Cemetery Expense	59	300	300	-	-	250	180
Medical Insurance	60	70,814	70,814	64,376	59,607	38,660	37,894
Health Insurance - Retirees	63	51,381	51,381	46,710	43,250	32,954	30,778
High tree work	61	14,000	14,000	14,000	12,000	12,000	-

UNCLASSIFIED TOTAL

300,266	300,266	358,902	310,522	216,295	175,911
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Change over previous year>>

-16.3%	-16.3%	15.6%	43.6%	23.0%	-1.2%
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TOTAL SELECTBOARD'S BUDGET

1,280,947	1,280,947	1,282,782	1,212,953	1,103,034	1,029,955
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Change over previous year>>

-0.1%	-0.1%	5.8%	10.0%	7.1%	1.1%
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EDUCATION BUDGET

RALPH C. MAHAR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

827,339	827,339	851,928	804,769	894,126	916,492
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-2.9%	-2.9%	5.9%	-10.0%	-2.4%	2.9%
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MONTACHUSETT TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

64,257	64,257	57,511	86,691	76,170	52,367
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11.7%	11.7%	-33.7%	13.8%	45.5%	-10.1%
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PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL

Regular Education	1,427,209	1,427,209	1,426,483	1,339,948	1,268,894	1,245,738
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Special Needs Education	233,943	233,943	251,526	332,762	322,953	278,573
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PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL BUDGET TOTAL	1,661,152	1,661,152	1,678,009	1,672,710	1,591,847	1,524,311
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Less: Known Income + Choice carryover	(71,906)	(71,906)	(93,757)	(114,050)	(119,940)	(110,255)
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Less: Incoming School Choice	(365,994)	(365,994)	(361,000)	(350,031)	(319,150)	(286,137)
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Reserve - from Incoming School Choice*	-	-	-	10,031		
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PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL APPROPRIATION

1,223,252	1,223,252	1,223,252	1,218,660	1,152,757	1,127,919
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Change over previous year>>

0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	5.7%	2.2%	2.9%
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GRAND TOTAL GENERAL BUDGET

3,395,795	3,395,795	3,415,473	3,323,073	3,226,087	3,126,733
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Grand Total General Budget -Change over previous year>>

2.2%	2.2%	2.8%	3.0%	3.2%	2.0%
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ALL 3 school budgets (change over previous year)>>

-0.8%	-0.8%	1.1%	-0.6%	1.3%	2.5%
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FY16	FY16	FY15	FY14	FY13	
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45,000	45,000	78,000	20,043	10,000	
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*Total PCS Reserve Fund from Incoming School Choice

**Town of Petersham
Special Articles Fiscal Year 2015 Special Town Meeting**

**FY2015
RECOMMENDED ARTICLES AND FUNDING SOURCES**

	ARTICLE	TOTAL APPROPRIATE	RAISE BY TAXATION	From Free Cash	From Surplus Overlay Funds	REQUESTED AMOUNT
Snow Removal Deficit	1	\$50,000.00	\$-	\$-	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Stabilization Fund	2	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
TOTAL SPECIAL ARTICLES		\$50,000.00	\$-	\$-	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00

Town of Petersham

Special Articles Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Town Meeting

FY2016 RECOMMENDED ARTICLES AND FUNDING SOURCES

Description of Articles	ARTICLE	Type	TOTAL APPROPRIATE	RAISE BY TAXATION	From Stabilization Fund	From Free Cash	From Surplus Overlay	From Specified Fund	REQUESTED AMOUNT	Estimated Effect on Tax Rate
Summer Petersham Brass Band Concerts	23		\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$1,800.00	\$0.01
Council on Aging	24		1,000.00	1,000.00	-	-	-	-	1,000.00	\$0.01
Petersham Center School Construction - Debt Service	27	DE	100,492.50	100,492.50	-	-	-	-	100,492.50	\$0.70
Mahar RSD Construction - Debt Service	28	DE	23,916.00	23,916.00	-	-	-	-	23,916.00	\$0.17
Mahar RSD Dam Repair - Debt Service	28		1,030.00	1,030.00					1,030.00	\$0.01
Fire Truck - Debt Service	29	DE	21,200.00	21,200.00	-	-	-	-	21,200.00	\$0.15
Reserve Fund	30		35,000.00	19,141.00	-	15,859.00	-	-	35,000.00	\$0.25
Assessors - Tri Annual Reassessment of Values	31		3,900.00	3,900.00	-	-	-	-	3,900.00	\$0.03
CIPC Assessors - Map update, 3rd of 3 years	32		15,000.00	-	-	15,000.00	-	-	15,000.00	\$0.11
CIPC Fire - Breathing Apparatus, 2nd of 3 years	33		24,000.00	24,000.00	-	-	-	-	24,000.00	\$0.17
CIPC Town Hall - Accessible Ramp replacement	34		12,000.00	12,000.00	-	-	-	-	12,000.00	\$0.08
CIPC Fire - Hose Replacement, 2nd of 5 years	35		5,000.00	5,000.00	-	-	-	-	5,000.00	\$0.04
CIPC Highway - Snow Plow Replacement	36		11,500.00	11,500.00	-	-	-	-	11,500.00	\$0.08
Highway - Roll Tarp for Sander Truck	37		1,165.00	1,165.00	-	-	-	-	1,165.00	\$0.01
Veterans Honor Roll Plaques	38		1,000.00	1,000.00	-	-	-	-	1,000.00	\$0.01
Nichewaug Maintenance Expense	39		5,000.00	5,000.00	-	-	-	-	5,000.00	\$0.04
Nichewaug Protection Expense	40		40,000.00	-	40,000.00	-	-	-	40,000.00	\$0.28
PCS - School Heating system design & engineering	41		10,000.00	10,000.00	-	-	-	-	10,000.00	\$0.07
Stabilization Fund	42		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL SPECIAL ARTICLES			\$313,003.50	\$242,144.50	\$40,000.00	\$30,859.00	\$-	\$-	\$313,003.50	\$2.19
Proposed General Total Budget			\$3,395,795						\$3,395,795.00	
GRAND TOTAL BUDGET			\$3,708,799						\$3,708,798.50	

About the Consent Calendar for Petersham 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 is 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 the warrant 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. No voter should hesitate to exercise the right to remove matters from the Consent Calendar. 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. 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.

Please review the proposed motions for the articles for the Consent Calendar and the related comments which follow. Complete articles are found in the warrant. Please review them carefully.

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

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

The voters at this Annual Town Meeting will also be asked at the beginning of the meeting to vote that on Articles which require a 2/3's vote, the Moderator will not be required to take an actual count, again to save time. 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
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

June 1, 2015

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 **\$50,000.00** to eliminate the Fiscal Year 2015 Snow and Ice Account Deficit; or act in relation thereto.

RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 2.

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Accountant to transfer all excess funding amounts above approved Revolving Account authorized levels from all Revolving Accounts with said excess fund amounts to be deposited into the general fund by the Town Accountant; or act in relation thereto.

RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 3.

To see if the Town will vote to close out the following accounts created by vote of previous Town Meetings and deposit existing funds to the General Fund: Cab/Chassis Components Account #0151420.024 per Annual Town Meeting approval of June 2014, in the amount of **\$158.37**; Right of Way Rte. 32 Account #015122.004 per Special Town Meeting approval of June 2014, in the amount of **\$1,000.00**; Dump/Sander Body Account #015420.022 per Annual Town Meeting approval of June 2013, in the amount of **\$2,388.42**; Town Hall/Town Office Storm Windows with Screens Account #015192.021 per Annual Town Meeting approval of June 2005, in the amount of **\$10,259.07**; and Town Hall Alarm System #015192.025 Annual Town Meeting approval of June 2007, in the amount of **\$10,500.00**; or act in relation thereto.

RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 4.

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

RECOMMENDED

Town of Petersham
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

June 1, 2015

ARTICLE 1.

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

ARTICLE 2. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements during Fiscal Year 2016, 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 2016; 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 2016; 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 2016; 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 2016; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 7. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize the Accountant to deposit income generated from property and timber sales into a "Commissions Account" for payment of commissions due as submitted for payment by the Selectboard following sale of property, pursuant to the provisions of MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, to pay commissions due on the sale of real and/or personal property of the Town; said fund to be established from receipts of said property, and expenditures shall not exceed \$5,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2016; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 8. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ 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; expenditures from said Fund for Fiscal Year 2016 not to exceed **\$15,000.00**; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 9. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund, pursuant to MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ to which shall be deposited all receipts for grave openings and from which the Selectboard may make expenditures to pay the costs thereof, said expenditures not to exceed **\$4,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2016; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 10. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund, pursuant to MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ to be expended by the several Town departments that process permit and license hearing applications, 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 various departments, and said expenditures not to exceed **\$5,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2016; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 11. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ 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; expenditures from said Revolving Fund for Fiscal Year 2016 not to exceed **\$2,000.00**; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 12. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ 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 hiring professional consultants to assist the Planning Board in carrying out its duties; expenditures from said Revolving Fund for Fiscal Year 2016 not to exceed **\$1,000.00**; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 13. 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 Commissions Account for payment of fees due as submitted for payment by the Town Clerk pursuant to the provisions of MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, said fund to be established from receipts of said income, and expenditures shall not exceed **\$3,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2016; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 14. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ 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; expenditures from said Fund for Fiscal Year 2016 not to exceed **\$3,000.00**; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 15. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ 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; expenditures from said Revolving Fund for Fiscal Year 2016 not to exceed **\$7,000.00**; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 16. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize the Inspector of Buildings to deposit fee income generated from inspections and related work into a Revolving Account, to be expended by the Inspector of Buildings, for the purposes of carrying out department duties, pursuant to MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½, said fund to be established from receipts of said income, expenditures from said account not to exceed **\$10,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2016; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 17. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund, pursuant to MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ and pursuant to Local Cultural Council Regulations at 962 CMR 2:05, for deposit 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; expenditures from said Revolving Fund for Fiscal Year 2016 not to exceed **\$5,000.00**; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 18. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund, pursuant to MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ and pursuant to Local Cultural Council Regulations at 962 CMR 2:05, for deposit of grant funds collected by the Petersham Cultural Council from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, to be expended by the Petersham Cultural Council for the purpose of funding annual grants; expenditures from said Revolving Fund for Fiscal Year 2016 not to exceed **\$8,000.00**; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 19. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund, pursuant to MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ 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; said expenditures not to exceed **\$10,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2016; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 20. CONSENT

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

— END OF CONSENT WARRANT —

ARTICLE 21.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, transfer 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 2016 as per budgets submitted by the several Town Departments and as approved by the Advisory Finance Committee or any other amounts deemed to be sufficient; or act in relation thereto.

RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 22.

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 **\$0.00**; Town Treasurer **\$15,209.00**; Town Clerk **\$9,846.00**; Tax Collector **\$12,107.00**; Selectboard, Chair **\$2,650.00**; two members **\$2,325.00** each; Board of Assessors, Chair, **\$3,003.00**, Clerk, **\$2,600.00**, other member, **\$2,447.00**; Trustee of Library **FREE**; Constables **\$11.00/per hour**; Board of Health chair, **\$188.00**, other members, **\$138.00** each; 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, **\$1,800.00** for six (6) Petersham Brass Band concerts at **\$300.00** per concert, to be held during the summer; 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 **\$1,000.00** to be used for Council on Aging activities; or act in relation thereto.

RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 25.

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 26.

To see if the Town will vote to take the sum of **\$1,000.00** from the Grave Opening Expenses Account 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 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 **\$100,492.50** to pay the FY2016 principal and interest due on the Petersham Center School building project, 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 **\$24,946.00** to pay the FY2016 principal and interest on the construction note for the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District school building, or act in relation thereto.

RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 29.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, transfer from Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$21,200.00** to pay the FY2016 principal and interest due on the Fire Department fire truck, or act in relation thereto.

RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 30.

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 **\$35,000.00** for deposit into the Reserve Fund for FY2016; 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 **\$3,900.00** for the Board of Assessors to fund the Tri-Annual Reassessment of Values of all Real Estate and Personal Property for Fiscal Year 2016, as required by State law; or 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, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$15,000.00** for the Board of Assessors to fund year three of a three year Mapping Project as required by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue; 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, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$24,000.00** for the Fire Department to purchase self-contained breathing apparatus Replacement Air Packs in year two of three or act in relation thereto.

RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 34.

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 **\$12,000.00** to purchase and install a replacement code compliant exterior Handicap Accessible Ramp for Town Hall, said appropriation to be under the control of the Selectboard; or act in relation thereto.

RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 35.

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 **\$5,000.00** for the Fire Department to purchase replacement Fire Hose in year two of five of a purchase program; or act in relation thereto.

RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 36.

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 **\$11,500.00** for the Highway Department to purchase a replacement Snow Plow Blade; or act in relation thereto.

RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 37.

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 **\$1,164.70** for the Highway Department to purchase a roll tarp Load Cover for the sander truck; or act in relation thereto.

RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 38.

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 **\$1,000.00** to pay the expenses related to the upgrading and adding names to various veterans honor roll plaques located throughout the town, said appropriation to be under the control of the Selectboard; or act in relation thereto.

RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 39.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any other combination thereof, the sum of **\$5,000.00** to be used for ongoing maintenance of the Nichewaug Inn to include but not limited to, landscaping maintenance, general maintenance, security alarm, and secured access; this appropriation to be under the control of the Selectboard; or act in relation thereto.

RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 40.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any other combination thereof, the sum of **\$40,000.00** to be used for the disposition of the Nichewaug Inn during the Town's investigation and process of demolition, abatement, review of re-development proposals, and/or transfer of ownership of the property, to include but not limited to legal services, consultant fees, contractor fees, other professional fees, and secure building access; this appropriation to be under the control of the Selectboard; or act in relation thereto.

RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 41.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, transfer, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$10,000.00** for design and engineering of a hybrid renewable energy heating system in the form of a wood pellet/condensing gas burner at Petersham Center School; design and engineering to be contingent upon successful receipt of grant funding from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources; or act in relation thereto.

RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 42.

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

RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 43.

To see if the Town will vote to expressly disapprove the request of the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District on a vote taken on April 7, 2015 by the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District Committee to fund by borrowing the costs related to repair of the dam on the property of the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District; or act in relation thereto.

NOT RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 44.

To see if the Town will vote to endorse the recommendation of its membership to the Franklin Regional Transit Authority authorizing transportation service to, or from, or within, the Town including the commitment by the Town for its share of any deficit as the result of such service; or act in relation thereto.

RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 45.

To see if the Town will vote Pursuant to Chapter 164 of the Acts of 1997 to authorize the Selectboard to develop and participate in any municipal electrical aggregation plan and to amend restructure or reconstitute such plan as may be necessary and appropriate so as to execute a contract or contracts for power supply and other related services, independently or in joint action with other municipalities through the Hampshire Council of Governments, and further, if such contracts are to be approved, individual consumers would retain the option not to participate and choose any alternative service they desire, and further, the Selectboard may appoint a representative and or a committee to oversee such action; or act in relation thereto.

VOTER PREFERENCE

ARTICLE 46.

To see if the Town will vote to remove Article XI from the existing Town of Petersham Zoning By-laws, text of said Article XI provided below in ***bold, italic font***; and add the following Section to Article XVI of the Town of Petersham Zoning By-laws, ‘Section 5B. Subdivisions’, text of said Article provided below in ***bold, italic font***; or act in relation thereto:

Remove the following Article XI from existing Zoning By-laws:

ARTICLE XI. SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS

Regulations governing the subdivision of land in the Town of Petersham are not classified as Bylaws but are regulations under the Planning Board, adopted by them after a Public Hearing, The regulations previously printed in this article having been completely revised, were adopted by the Planning Board on August 1, 1977, and are now available as a separate document. Copies may be obtained at the Selectmen's office.

Add the following Section 5B to Article XVI of existing Zoning By-laws:

ARTICLE 46. – continued

SECTION 5B. SUBDIVISIONS

A. Rules and Regulations

Technical requirements for subdivisions are covered in a separate document, “Rules and Regulations Governing the Subdivision of Land” which is available in the Town Office Building.

B. Definitions

MGL: Massachusetts General Laws

ANR: For the purposes of this Section 5b, the standard process of lot division along existing roadways under Section IV of the Petersham Subdivision Regulations and in accordance with MGL Chapter 41, Sections 81L and P and Section 4 of the Zoning By-laws.

C. Purpose and Applicability

1. Purpose: The primary purpose of this section is to implement measures that will further the goals stated in the Petersham Master Plan:

- Preserve the Town's historic rural landscape and existing pattern of low density housing.*
- Control the nature of new subdivision development that can occur in the Town.*
- Direct development away from environmentally sensitive areas.*
- Require new development to be designed in a manner that is environmentally and aesthetically compatible with its surroundings.*
- Foster small-scale agricultural and forestry production by retaining suitable lands for these purposes.*

2. Applicability: This Article applies only to subdivisions of land that create new roads as defined in MGL Ch. 41, § 81L, and not to individual ANR lots created through the standard process with frontage on public ways.

(a) Deviations: The Planning Board may allow a subdivision development that deviates from one or more of the requirements herein by special permit. Such deviations may be approved if the applicant can demonstrate that the proposed plan provides adequate protection of environmental resources and meets the goals of this section as well or better than otherwise without such deviations.

(b) The subdivision approval and any requested special permit approvals provided for in this Section 4B shall be considered concurrently to the extent practicable.

D. Conservation Analysis and Findings

1. Prior to filing an application, an applicant is encouraged to meet with the Planning Board to discuss the conservation resources on the site.

2. A conservation analysis as described in the “Petersham Rules and Regulations Governing the Subdivision of Land” is required from the applicant preferably for informal review as noted above before the application is filed.

3. The Planning Board in consultation with the Conservation Commission shall study the conservation analysis, may conduct field visits, and shall formally determine in “conservation findings” which land should be preserved and where development may be located.

4. *The proposed design shall conform or be modified by the applicant to conform with the conservation findings*

E. Minimum Preserved Open Space

The Plan shall show that at least 80% of the total acreage of the project will be preserved by a Conservation Restriction or other means acceptable to the Planning Board, the configuration of which shall be based upon the conservation findings. Conserved land is not required to be contiguous.

F. Allowable Lots

1. *The maximum number of lots permitted is calculated by a formula based upon the net acreage of the project. This calculation involves two steps, calculating the net acreage and then dividing it by the density divisor.*

2. **Net Acreage Calculation**

(a) *To determine net acreage, subtract from the gross acreage of the project the total acreage of:*

(i) one-half of land with slopes of 15%–25% and all land with slopes greater than 25%.

(ii) land subject to easements or restrictions prohibiting development;

(iii) land which is inaccessible due to steep terrain, wetland or other barrier

(iv) all Watershed Protection Act land subject to the restrictions of 350 CMR 11.04(3)(a);

(v) all FEMA 100-year floodplains; and

(vi) all freshwater wetlands as defined in Section 40 of Chapter 131 of the General Laws, as delineated by an accredited wetlands specialist approved by the Petersham Conservation Commission.

(b) *Applicants shall use the Field Data Form found in Appendix G of the Massachusetts DEP Handbook "Delineating Bordering Vegetated Wetlands Under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act" (1995). The complete form shall be submitted including all methods of determination, i.e., vegetation, soil, and any other indicators, as provided for on the form. If detailed vegetative assessments are not required by the Handbook for a particular site, the reasons must be noted on the Field Data Form. At the Planning Board's discretion, any of the information described above may be taken from current geographic information systems data available from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Mass GIS, and other credible sources including delineations registered by the use of global positioning systems.*

3. **Lot Calculation**

(a) *To determine the maximum number of allowable lots on the site, divide the net acreage by a density divisor of 7.5. Fractional units may be rounded up if the open space requirement of section E, above, is met.*

(b) *The following additional lots may be granted in the subdivision by special permit from the Planning Board. If necessary, the area of these lots may be subtracted from the open space required by E above.*

(i) The lot count determined in 3(a) may be increased through a density bonus designed to advance important housing goals of the Petersham master plan. If the applicant permanently restricts ownership and occupancy of any dwelling units as affordable housing, and makes them eligible for inclusion in the Town's "Subsidized Housing Inventory" for the purposes of Chapter 40B of the General Laws, and makes a binding

ARTICLE 46. – continued

commitment to construct such affordable residences: for each such affordable unit the number of permitted lots in 3(a) may be increased by one up to an additional three.

(ii) The lot count determined in 3(a) may also be increased by conserving land adjacent to the subdivision and fronting onto an existing roadway that would otherwise constitute buildable ANR lot(s). If at least the minimum area and frontage for such ANR lots is added to the preserved open space in accordance with Section I, below, a corresponding number of lots may be added to the lot count in 3(a).

G. Types of Residential Development

The allowable residential dwelling units may be developed as single-family, or any other housing type allowed by Section 4 in the Zoning By-laws.

H. Dimensional and Design Requirements

1. Minimum lot size and frontage shall conform with the requirements of Section 4 in the Zoning By-laws.

2. Lots shall be located and arranged in a manner that protects: views from roads and other publicly accessible points; farmland; wildlife habitat; and other sensitive environmental resources. Consideration shall be given to access of dwelling units to potentially arable land or land suitable for forestry. The Planning Board shall take into consideration the conservation findings in approving the arrangement of lots.

I. Permanent Open Space

1. All land required to be set aside as open space shall be so noted on any approved plans and shall be protected by a permanent Conservation Restriction, herein defined as a permanent restriction in the title to land of the type described in G.L. Chapter 184, Sections 31–33, to be held by the Town of Petersham Conservation Commission, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or a non-profit conservation organization qualified to hold Conservation Restrictions under Chapter 184, Section 31 of the General laws and also qualified to hold tax-deductible conservation easements under Section 170(h) of the Internal Revenue Code. As used in this zoning bylaw “Conservation Restriction” also includes an Agricultural Preservation Restriction, a Watershed Preservation Restriction, or a Preservation Restriction. The restriction shall specify the permitted uses of the restricted land which may otherwise constitute development.

2. Ownership of Open Space Land

(a) The fee interest in the protected open space land, at the applicant's discretion, may be held in private ownership or held in common ownership by a homeowner's association (HOA).

In the case of private ownership, ownership interests in such land shall be undivided unless the Planning Board grants a special permit allowing for the division of ownership, which may include apportioned ownership amongst some or all of the residential lots.

(b) If the land is owned in common by an HOA, such HOA shall be established in accordance with the following:

(i) The HOA must be created before final approval of the development, and must comply with all applicable provisions of state law.

(ii) Membership must be mandatory for each lot owner, who must be required by recorded covenants and restrictions to pay fees to the HOA for taxes, insurance, and maintenance of common open space, private roads, and other common facilities.

(iii) The HOA must be responsible for liability insurance, property taxes, the maintenance of recreational and other facilities, private roads, and any shared driveways used by all members.

(iv) Property owners must pay their pro rata share of the costs in (b) (ii) and (iii), above, and the assessment levied by the HOA must be able to become a lien on the individual property in the event of non-payment.

(v) The HOA must be able to adjust the assessment to meet changed needs.

(vi) The applicant shall make a conditional offer of dedication to the Town, binding upon the HOA, for all open space to be conveyed to the HOA. Such offer may be accepted by the Town, at the discretion of the Select Board, upon the failure of the HOA to take title to the open space from the applicant or other current owner, upon dissolution of the association at any future time, or upon failure of the HOA to fulfill its maintenance obligations hereunder or to pay its real property taxes.

(vii) Ownership shall be structured in such a manner that real property taxing authorities may satisfy property tax claims against the open space lands by proceeding against individual owners in the HOA and the lots and dwelling units they each own.

(viii) Town Counsel shall find that the HOA documents presented satisfy the conditions in (b)(i-vii), above, and such other conditions as the Planning Board shall deem necessary.

3. Maintenance Standards

(a) Maintenance and plowing of private roads shall be the responsibility of the property owners.

(b) If the holder of the Conservation Restriction finds any provisions of the restriction to be violated, it may, upon 30 days written notice to the owner, enter the premises for necessary maintenance, and the actual costs of such maintenance by the Town shall be assessed ratably against the landowner or, in the case of an HOA, the owners of properties within the development, and shall, if unpaid, become a property tax lien on such property or properties.

VOTER PREFERENCE

ARTICLE 47.

To see if the Town will vote to add the following wording shown in ***bold, italic font*** below to Section 4e in Article XVI of the Town of Petersham Zoning By-laws; or action in relation thereto:

Within the bounds of any lot existing as of January 1, 2016 one rear lot may be created.

In addition to the basic minimum lot area a rear lot shall have an access strip at least 40 feet wide from a public way to the rear lot, which access strip shall be in the same ownership as the rear lot; the width of the lot where the building or structure is to be located shall equal or exceed the number of feet otherwise required for street frontage measured on a line roughly parallel to the street; and the front, rear, and side yards on the rear lot with respect to such building or structure shall equal or exceed those required in this By-law, or act in relation thereto.

VOTER PREFERENCE

ARTICLE 48.

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to take all necessary and appropriate action to establish and to maintain, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 164 of the General Laws and in accordance with the rules, regulations and orders of the Department of Public Utilities and the Department of Telecommunications & Cable, a municipal lighting plant for all purposes allowable under the laws of the Commonwealth, including without limitation the operation of a telecommunications system and any related services; or act in relation thereto.

VOTER PREFERENCE

ARTICLE 49 – Citizens’ Petition Article

To see if the town will vote to take from the Stabilization Fund a sum of money equal to one dollar on the 2016 tax rate to be used to reduce the tax rate by one dollar per thousand of assessed valuation or act in relation thereto.

NOT RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 50 – Citizens’ Petition Article

To see if the town will vote to increase the membership of the Zoning Board of Appeals from three to five members or act in relation thereto. The proposed zoning by-law amendment reads as follows:

SECTION 11. BOARD OF APPEALS

There is hereby established a Board of Appeals which shall consist of five members and two associate members, all registered voters in the Town, who shall be appointed by the Selectmen, as provided in Chapter 40A, and which shall be the special permit granting authority under this By-law and shall act on all matters within its jurisdiction as provided in MGL Chapter 40 A.

VOTER PREFERENCE

ARTICLE 51 – Citizens’ Petition Article

To see if the Town will vote to limit members of the Board of Selectmen to serving exclusively on the Board of Selectmen. The proposed By-law change would read as follows, and would be an addition to the current By-laws:

Article II, Paragraph D, Town Officers and Appointees and The Election or Appointment of Same Members of the Board of Selectmen shall hold no other Town office, nor serve on any Town Committee, except as provided for by the By-laws of the Town of Petersham.

VOTER PREFERENCE

ARTICLE 52 – Citizens’ Petition Article

To see if the Town will vote to increase the membership of the Board of Selectmen from three to five members. The proposed By-law change would read as follows:

Article II, Paragraph D, Town Officers and Appointees and The Election or Appointment of Same Board of Selectmen to consist of five members, with a Special Election for the two new members to be held on the 6th Monday following the Town Meeting. These two members will serve until the next regularly scheduled Town Election, at which point their positions will be placed on the ballot for three year terms.

VOTER PREFERENCE

Summary of Town Appropriation for Proposed School Budgets 2015–2016 School Year

TOTAL CENTER SCHOOL

BUDGET ASSESSMENT

FOR PETERSHAM SCHOOL YEAR 2015–2016

Operating Budget Assessment \$ 1,223,252.

Total Construction Debt Assesment \$ 100,492.

Total Proposed Appropriation at Town Meeting \$ 1,323,744.

TOTAL MAHAR RSD

BUDGET ASSESSMENT

FOR PETERSHAM, SCHOOL YEAR 2015–2016

Operating Budget Assessment \$ 827,339.

Total Construction Debt Assesment \$ 24,946.

Total Proposed Appropriation at Town Meeting \$ 852,285.

TOTAL MONTACHUETT VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

BUDGET ASSESSMENT

FOR PETERSHAM, SCHOOL YEAR 2015–2016

Operating Budget Assessment \$ 62,877.

Total Construction Debt Assesment \$ 1,380.

Total Proposed Appropriation at Town Meeting \$ 64,257.

Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Budget, 2015–2016 School Year

March 31, 2015

Mr. Dana Robinson, Treasurer
Town of Petersham
3 South Main Street
Petersham, MA 01366

Dear Mr. Robinson:

The Ralph C Mahar Regional School District Committee voted to amend the budget for the 2015-2016 school year at a public meeting held on May 5, 2015. The Fiscal Year 2016 operational and capital assessment payment schedule for the Town of Petersham, as amended, is as follows:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OPERATING ASSESSMENT</u>	<u>CAPITAL ASSESSMENT</u>	<u>TOTAL ASSESSMENT</u>
9/1/2015	\$ 206,834.75	\$ 6,236.50	\$ 213,071.25
12/1/2015	206,834.75	6,236.50	\$ 213,071.25
3/1/2016	206,834.75	6,236.50	\$ 213,071.25
6/1/2016	206,834.75	6,236.50	\$ 213,071.25
TOTAL	\$ 827,339.00	\$ 24,946.00	\$ 852,285.00

Town Assessments were based on the amended adopted budget as follows:

Gross Budget	\$ 12,290,711
Revenue Sources	(6,157,322)
Excess and Deficiency	(400,000)
Net Operating Budget	<u>\$ 5,733,389</u>
Operating Assessments	\$ 5,473,133
Capital Assessments	260,256
Total Town Assessments	<u>\$ 5,733,389</u>

Sincerely,



Tari N Thomas
Superintendent of Schools

Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Town Assessments

MAHAR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT							
FY 2016 Budget Worksheet Revenues - House Budget Version							
	COMPARISON 2016-2015 REVENUE AND OFS			CHANGE FROM MARCH 26 PUBLIC HEARING			
	FY 2015 Revenue	FY 2016 Revenue	\$ Change	March 26 Vote Revenue	May 6 Proposed Revenue	\$ Change	
<u>SCHOOL REVENUES and OFS</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>		<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>		
CHAPTER 70 STATE AID	5,322,215	5,339,690	17,475	5,336,195	5,339,690	3,495	
CHARTER SCHOOL REIMBURSEMENT	18,253	22,233	3,980	22,233	22,233	-	
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION REIMBURSEMENT	483,300	486,251	2,951	420,246	486,251	66,005	
MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT	35,000	50,000	15,000	50,000	50,000	-	
OTHER REVENUE	33,300	-	(33,300)	-	-	-	
EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY (E&D)	300,000	400,000	100,000	400,000	400,000	-	
SPED CIRCUIT BREAKER	256,403	259,148	2,745	259,148	259,148	-	
TOTAL SCHOOL REVENUES AND OFS	6,448,471	6,557,322	108,851	6,487,822	6,557,322	69,500	
TOWN ASSESSMENTS							
NEW SALEM	577,763	650,410	72,647	656,973	650,410	(6,563)	
ORANGE	3,869,314	3,935,547	66,233	3,989,139	3,935,547	(53,592)	
PETERSHAM	877,360	852,285	(25,075)	858,946	852,285	(6,661)	
WENDELL	282,883	295,147	12,264	297,831	295,147	(2,684)	
TOTAL TOWN ASSESSMENTS	5,607,320	5,733,389	126,069	5,802,889	5,733,389	(69,500)	
TOTAL BUDGETED REVENUE AND OFS	12,055,791	12,290,711	234,920	12,055,791	12,290,711	234,920	1.95%
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENDITURES	12,055,791	12,290,711	234,920	12,055,791	12,290,711	234,920	1.95%
TOTAL BUDGET SURPLUS/BUDGET	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Budget, 2015–2016 School Year



Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District

Ashburnham • Ashby • Athol • Barre • Fitchburg • Gardner • Harvard • Holden • Hubbardston • Lunenburg
Petersham • Phillipston • Princeton • Royalston • Sterling • Templeton • Westminster • Winchendon



Monty Tech
1050 Westminster Street
Fitchburg, Massachusetts 01420

(978) 345-9200 or (978) 632-8889
Fax: (978) 345-9167
Website: <http://www.montytech.net>

March 23, 2015

Mr. Dana C. Robinson, Treasurer
3 South Main Street
P.O. Box 486
Petersham, MA 01366

Dear Mr. Robinson:

The 2015-2016 preliminary budget and assessments approved and certified by the Regional District Committee on March 17, 2015 is the total amount deemed necessary for the operation and maintenance of the District for the Fiscal Year 2016. Please note that these are preliminary figures, subject to change, based on final Cherry Sheet figures from the State.

The certified figures are determined by adding Petersham's share of the State minimum spending requirement, transportation/operating costs, capital and bond costs.

FY 2016 Regional School District Assessment \$ 64,257

Please include \$ 64,257 in the appropriations to be acted upon at your 2015 annual City/Town meeting.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Business Manager, Tammy Crockett, at (978) 345-9200 extension 5214.

Sincerely,

Norman J. LeBlanc
Treasurer

NJL/tl

Cc: Edward Simms, Monty Tech Rep
Peter George, Chair Board of Selectmen
Ross Fronce, Chair Finance Committee
Steven C. Boudreau, Admin Coordinator

Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, gender identity, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, religion or national origin.

District Title IX Compliance Coordinator: Principal (978) 345-9200 x5205

Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Budget – Assessments and Comparisons

COMMUNITIES	FOUNDATION	FY 16 REQUIRED	TRANSPORT/		FY'2016	PROPOSED	APPROVED	
	BUDGET	MINIMUM	OPERATING	CAPITAL			FY'2015	CHANGE
	FY'2016	CONTRIBUTION	ASSESS.	ASSESS.	BONDS	FY'2016	ASSESSMENT	FY'15 – FY'16
Ashburnham	916,791	419,014	33,380	0	11,274	463,668	442,182	21,486
Ashby	611,194	331,770	22,226	0	5,208	359,204	389,951	(30,747)
Athol	1,405,747	194,163	51,145	0	16,719	262,026	237,738	24,288
Barre	580,634	240,406	21,152	0	8,490	270,048	301,887	(31,839)
Fitchburg	6,295,300	1,682,053	229,036	0	63,123	1,974,212	1,742,968	231,244
Gardner	2,398,937	717,159	87,252	0	27,055	831,466	818,615	12,851
Harvard	122,239	106,462	4,462	0	11,092	122,015	98,949	23,066
Holden	1,176,549	708,130	42,800	0	28,813	779,743	739,215	40,528
Hubbardston	932,071	473,306	33,876	0	6,665	513,847	471,062	42,785
Lunenburg	1,191,829	740,556	43,378	0	17,550	801,484	760,058	41,426
Petersham	76,399	60,068	2,809	0	1,380	64,257	56,509	7,748
Phillipston	290,317	159,425	10,576	0	2,420	172,421	182,534	(10,113)
Princeton	320,877	281,151	11,650	0	5,089	297,890	289,698	8,192
Royalston	305,597	101,757	11,154	0	1,248	114,159	116,473	(1,314)
Sterling	977,911	719,236	35,611	0	13,227	768,074	677,868	90,206
Templeton	1,512,706	546,063	55,028	0	10,389	611,480	582,502	28,978
Westminster	1,268,228	716,205	46,187	0	13,149	775,541	754,280	21,261
Winchendon	2,322,538	772,503	84,525	0	17,526	874,554	779,975	94,579
	22,705,864	8,969,427	826,249	0	260,415	10,056,091	9,441,464	614,627

Petersham Center School Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Budget, 2015-2016 School Year

Line #	PCS Proposed Budget	Line Description	FY15 Prop Approp	FY15 Prop SC	FY15 Total Budget	FY16 Prop Approp	FY16 Prop SC	FY16 Total Budget	Diff
1	600.1131.06.5224.2.001	Committee Expenses	1,262		1,262	1,500		1,500	238
2	600.1132.06.5223.2.001	Committee Adv Exp	200		200	200		200	0
3	600.1133.04.5219.2.001	Committee Legal Exp	3,000		3,000	3,000		3,000	0
4	600.1140.06.5217.2.001	Masc Dues	1		1	1		1	0
5	600.1160.06.5217.2.001	Census	175		175	175		175	0
6	600.1170.06.5217.2.001	School Council	1		1	1		1	0
7	600.1210.01.5130.2.002	*Supt Salary (inc Supt, Dir of Fin & Curr Coord)	14,628		14,628	19,757		19,757	5,129
8	600.1220.02.5101.2.002	Supt Sec Salary	0		0	0		0	0
9	600.1230.05.5223.2.001	Supt Office Expenses	1,000		1,000	1,000		1,000	0
10	600.1240.06.5217.2.001	Supt Dues	1		1	1		1	0
11	600.1250.06.5239.2.001	Supt Travel Expenses	1		1	1		1	0
	1000 Account sub-totals	Central Office Salary/Expenses	20,269	0	20,269	25,636	0	25,636	5,367
12	600.2210.01.5120.2.002	Principals Salary	77,147		77,147	79,461		79,461	2,314
13	600.2220.02.5101.2.002	Principal Sec Salary	38,800		38,800	40,370		40,370	1,570
14	600.2230.05.5223.2.001	Office Expense	3,000		3,000	3,500		3,500	500
15	600.2241.06.5217.2.001	Neasc Dues	1		1	1		1	0
16	600.2242.06.5217.2.001	Mespa Dues	600		600	600		600	0
17	600.2250.06.5239.2.001	Principal Travel/Expenses	800		800	900		900	100
18	600.2301.01.5121.2.002	Teachers Salaries	408,742	67,306	476,048	392,776	71,514	464,290	(11,758)
19	600.2302.01.5121.2.002	Specialist Salaries	11,929	16,768	28,697	17,952	10,446	28,398	(299)
20	600.2303.02.5121.2.002	Substitute Salaries	8,000		8,000	8,000		8,000	0
21	600.2304.01.5121.2.002	Band Club Salaries	0	18,062	18,062	1	17,480	17,481	(581)
22	600.2305.01.5121.2.002	Enrichment Activities	1		1	1		12,000	12,000
23	600.2306.03.5122.2.002	Paraprofessional Salaries	38,432		38,432	11,021	28,878	39,899	1,467
24	600.2307.01.5121.2.002	Counselor Salaries	1	26,020	26,021	1	27,598	27,599	1,578
25	600.2308.01.5121.2.002	Tech & Media Salaries	1	56,636	56,637	1	50,025	50,026	(6,611)
26	600.2351.06.5218.2.001	Teacher Course Credits	2,500		2,500	5,000		5,000	2,500
27	600.2352.06.5239.2.001	Professional Dev	5,000		5,000	7,500		7,500	2,500
28	600.2353.05.5237.2.001	Student Supplies	6,000		6,000	6,000		6,000	0
29	600.2354.04.5204.2.001	Technology	14,838		14,838	28,386		28,386	13,548
30	600.2355.06.5239.2.001	Staff Travel	800		800	800		800	0
31	600.2356.06.5239.2.001	Field Trips	2,360		2,360	3,500		3,500	1,140
32	600.2357.05.5237.2.001	Textbooks/Workbooks	4,050		4,050	3,500		3,500	(550)
33	600.2358.05.5237.2.001	Curriculum Support Materials	1		1	12,500		12,500	12,499
34	600.2400.05.5227.2.001	Textbooks	1		1	1		1	0
35	600.2500.05.5237.2.001	Library Books	1		1	1		1	0
36	600.2600.05.5237.2.001	Audio Visual	6,320		6,320	1		1	(6,319)

**Petersham Center School
Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Budget, 2015–2016 School Year (continued)**

37	600.2700.05.5237.2.001	Achievement Tests	5,500	184,792	5,500	819,617	3,000	217,941	3,000	(2,500)
	2000 Account sub-totals	Instruction	634,825	184,792	819,617	624,774	217,941	842,715	23,098	
38	600.3200.01.5130.2.002	School Physician	1		1	500		500	499	
39	600.3210.01.5121.2.002	School Nurse Salary	519	32,490	33,009	1	33,832	33,833	824	
40	600.3220.06.5224.2.001	Health Supplies	1,500		1,500	1,800		1,800	300	
41	600.3370.04.5239.2.001	Transportation	103,777		103,777	103,777		103,777	0	
42	600.3380.06.5239.2.001	Transportation Cont	1		1	1		1	0	
43	600.3400.06.5222.2.001	Food Services	258	26,404	26,662	1	22,508	22,509	(4,153)	
	3000 Account sub-totals	Medical/Transportation/Food Serv	106,056	58,894	164,950	106,080	56,340	162,420	(2,530)	
44	600.4110.02.5101.2.002	Custodian Salary	803	29,192	29,995	1	30,744	30,745	750	
45	600.4111.02.5101.2.002	Custodial Recall	500		500	800		800	300	
46	600.4112.06.5224.2.001	Custodian Supplies	9,452		9,452	9,000		9,000	(452)	
47	600.4113.02.5101.2.002	Director Of Builid/Grounds Sala	43,786		43,786	44,881		44,881	1,095	
48	600.4120.06.5214.2.001	Heating	47,407		47,407	35,100		35,100	(12,307)	
49	600.4130.06.5215.2.001	Telephone/Internet	4,284		4,284	4,100		4,100	(184)	
50	600.4140.06.5211.2.001	Electricity	13,632		13,632	15,000		15,000	1,368	
51	600.4150.06.5202.2.001	Alarm Monitoring	570		570	570		570	0	
52	600.4210.05.5202.2.001	Maintenance Of Grounds	3,058		3,058	2,508		2,508	(550)	
53	600.4220.05.5202.2.001	Maintenance Of Building	3,582		3,582	10,006		10,006	6,424	
54	600.4221.03.5102.2.001	Contracted Services	20,048		20,048	20,048		20,048	0	
55	600.4222.06.5212.2.001	Water Assoc Dues	300		300	300		300	0	
56	600.4230.06.5202.2.001	Maint Of Equip-Building	6,215		6,215	7,175		7,175	960	
57	600.4232.06.5206.2.001	Maint Of Equip-Education	9,183		9,183	9,183		9,183	0	
	4000 Account sub-totals	Maintenance	162,820	29,192	192,012	158,672	30,744	189,416	(2,596)	
58	600.5200.06.5706.2.001	Health Insurance	176,871		176,871	191,018		206,018	29,147	
	5000 Account sub-totals	Insurances	176,871	0	176,871	191,018	15,000	206,018	29,147	
59	600.7200.05.5880.2.001	Acquisition and Improvement -	1		1	1		1	0	
60	600.7390.05.5880.2.001	Acq Of Equip - Ed	500		500	500		500	0	
61	600.7391.05.5880.2.001	Acq Of Equip- Building	500		500	500		500	0	
62	600.7490.05.5830.2.001	Replacement Of Equip- Educatio	1		1	1		1	0	
63	600.7491.05.5830.2.001	Replacement Of Equip- Building	1		1	1		1	0	
	7000 Account sub-totals	Acq of Equip/Replacement	1,003	0	1,003	1,003	0	1,003	0	

Petersham Center School Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Budget, 2015-2016 School Year (continued)

Line #	PCS Proposed Budget	Line Description	FY15 Prop. Approp.	FY15 Prop. SC	FY15 Total Budget	FY16 Prop. Approp.	FY16 Prop. SC	FY16 Total Budget	Diff
64	600.8000.05.5880.2.001	Debt Retirement Services	1		1	1		1	0
	8000 Account sub-totals		1	0	1	1	0	1	0
65	600.9021.01.5120.2.900	*Spec Ed Admin Sal	9,730		9,730	6,577		6,577	(3,153)
		*Inc-Spec Ed Admin, Dir of Couns & Team Ldr			0			0	
66	600.9023.01.5121.2.900	Special Ed Teacher Salary	33,389	33,278	66,667	34,609	33,278	67,887	1,220
67	600.9023.01.5121.2.901	Special Ed Speech Therapist Sa	46,930	8,324	55,254	43,879		43,879	(11,375)
68	600.9023.01.5121.2.902	Special Ed Summer Prgrm. Teach	1	3,500	3,501	1	5,000	5,001	1,500
69	600.9023.02.5101.2.900	Special Ed Secretary	12,579		12,579	1		1	(12,578)
70	600.9023.02.5121.2.901	Special Ed Inclusion Specialis	1		1	1		1	0
71	600.9023.02.5121.2.902	Special Ed Home/Hosp Instructi	100		100	100		100	0
72	600.9023.02.5121.2.903	Special Ed Teacher Sub	1		1	1		1	0
73	600.9023.03.5121.2.900	Special Ed Tutor	1		1	1		1	0
74	600.9023.03.5121.2.901	Special Ed Physician	1		1	1		1	0
75	600.9023.03.5122.2.900	Special Ed Paraprofessional Salary	31,321		31,321	32,104		32,104	783
76	600.9023.05.5223.2.900	Special Ed Office Expense	200		200	200		200	0
77	600.9023.06.5239.2.901	Special Ed Travel	1		1	1		1	0
78	600.9024.05.5227.2.900	Special Ed Textbooks	1		1	1		1	0
79	600.9024.05.5227.2.901	Special Ed School Supplies	900		900	1,000		1,000	100
80	600.9024.05.5227.2.902	Special Ed Audio Visual	1		1	1		1	0
81	600.9028.01.5121.2.002	Counselor Salaries	1	26,020	26,021	1	27,597	27,598	1,577
82	600.9028.01.5121.2.900	Special Ed Psychologist Salary	1		1	1		1	0
83	600.9028.04.5219.2.901	Special Ed Therapist (Ov/Pt)	12,000		12,000	24,583		24,583	12,583
84	600.9028.04.5219.2.902	Special Ed Cont. Svcs-Behav S	1	17,000	17,001	1	12,000	12,001	(5,000)
85	600.9028.04.5236.2.900	Special Ed Cont. Psychological	7,000		7,000	7,000		7,000	0
86	600.9028.04.5650.2.900	Special Ed Contracted Services	17,500		17,500	5,000		5,000	(12,500)
87	600.9037.06.5209.2.900	Special Ed Trans	1		1	1		1	0
88	600.9042.06.5206.2.900	Special Ed Operation And Maint	1		1	1		1	0
89	600.9042.06.5206.2.901	Special Ed Acq Of Equip	1		1	1		1	0
90	600.9300.06.5651.2.900	Special Ed Tuition Out Of Distr	1		1	1		1	0
91	600.9400.06.5653.2.900	Special Ed Caps Collab Assessm	500		500	500		500	0
92	600.9911.06.5652.2.900	Special Ed Pre-School Program	500		500	500		500	0
	9000 Account sub-totals	Special Education	172,664	88,122	260,786	156,068	77,875	233,943	(26,843)
			1,274,509	361,000	1,635,509	1,263,252	397,900	1,661,152	25,643
		Grants	(51,257)		(40,000)				
		Town Appropriation Budget	1,223,252		1,223,252				0

* Council on Finance, 4/14/15, p. 15

Petersham Center School Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Budget, 2015-2016 School Year (continued)

<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>Object Code</u>	<u>2015 Budget</u>	<u>FY 2016 Proposed Budget</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change Compared to FY 2015 Budget</u>	<u>FY 2015 % of Total Budget</u>	<u>FY 2016 % of Total Budget</u>
ADMINISTRATION	1000	16,025	19,440	3,415	21.31%	1.31%	1.59%
SCHOOL BUILDING LEADERSHIP	2000	126,772	131,028	4,256	3.36%	10.36%	10.71%
INSTRUCTION	2000	473,871	499,942	26,071	5.50%	38.74%	40.87%
OTHER SCHOOL SERVICES	3000	2,278	2,302	24	1.05%	0.19%	0.19%
TRANSPORTATION	3000	103,778	103,778	-	0.00%	8.48%	8.48%
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE	4000	163,824	159,676	(4,148)	-2.53%	13.39%	13.05%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	5000	176,871	191,018	14,147	8.00%	14.46%	15.62%
SPECIAL EDUCATION	9000	159,833	116,068	(43,765)	-27.38%	13.07%	9.49%
APPROPRIATION BUDGET		\$1,223,252	\$1,223,252	\$-	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%
SCHOOL CHOICE							
INSTRUCTION	2710	184,792	217,941	33,149	17.94%	51.19%	54.77%
OTHER SCHOOL SERVICES	3000	58,894	56,340	(2,554)	-4.34%	16.31%	14.16%
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE	4000	29,192	30,744	1,552	5.32%	8.09%	7.73%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	5000	-	15,000	15,000	100.00%	0.00%	3.77%
SPECIAL EDUCATION	9000	88,122	77,875	(10,247)	-11.63%	24.41%	19.57%
SCHOOL CHOICE BUDGET		\$361,000	\$397,900	\$36,900	10.22%	100.00%	100.00%
APPROPRIATION & SCHOOL CHOICE BUDGET		\$1,584,252	\$1,621,152	\$36,900	2.33%		
GRANTS							
SPECIAL EDUCATION	9000	51,257	40,000	(11,257)	-21.96%	100.00%	100.00%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES - GRANTS		\$51,257	\$40,000	\$(11,257)	-21.96%	100.00%	100.00%
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENDITURES		\$1,635,509	\$1,661,152	\$25,643	1.57%		

Petersham Center School Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Budget, 2015-2016 School Year (continued)

Line	Appropriation	School Choice	Grants	Fiscal 2016 Total
FY 2016 Budget Presentation - April 9	1,227,082	397,900	40,000	1,664,982
Fuel Savings (3.18 per gallon to 2.34 per gallon)	(16,900)			(16,900)
Salary adjustments from negotiations	(5,813)			(5,813)
Move School Lunch salaries back to budget	11,683			11,683
Increase curriculum support materials (ELA Program)	4,700			4,700
Increase professional development	2,500			2,500
Adjusted Appropriation Budget	1,223,252	397,900	40,000	1,661,152

	Fiscal 2016 Budget	Fiscal 2015 Budget	Increase (Decrease)
REVENUE AND AVAILABLE FUNDS BUDGET	425,468	424,308	1,160
Chapter 70 Estimate	425,468	424,308	1,160
Total Estimated Revenues and Available Funds	425,468	424,308	1,160

TREND ANALYSIS

	Appropriation	Increase	Percentage Increase
FY 2016 Appropriation Budget	1,223,252	-	0.000%
FY 2015 Appropriation Budget	1,223,252	6,336	0.521%
FY 2014 Appropriation Budget	1,216,916	64,159	5.566%
FY 2013 Appropriation Budget	1,152,757		
FY 2016 School Choice Budget	397,900	36,900	10.222%
FY 2015 School Choice Budget	361,000	25,813	7.701%
FY 2014 School Choice Budget	335,187	(45,175)	-11.877%
FY 2013 School Choice Budget	380,362		
FY 2016 Total Budget excluding grants	1,621,152	36,900	2.329%
FY 2015 Total Budget excluding grants	1,584,252	32,149	2.071%
FY 2014 Total Budget excluding grants	1,552,103	18,984	1.238%
FY 2013 Total Budget excluding grants	1,533,119		



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
PETERSHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2015
7:30 PM

The Special Town Meeting begins at 7:30 PM.

**The Annual Town Meeting immediately
follows the Special Town Meeting.**

All welcome.
*Please come to vote on
your town's annual budget.*

Dear Reader:

Everyone is welcome to the Petersham Town Meeting. All registered residents are encouraged to attend. Seating for non-registered residents and the general public is available in the upstairs balcony. If you are not a registered voter in the Town of Petersham, please make certain to receive permission from the Town Moderator to gain admittance to the main floor of the Town Hall. If you have questions or need assistance, please inquire at the front door.

Please bring this report with you for reference at Town Meeting.

TOWN OF PETERSHAM
ADVISORY FINANCE COMMITTEE
P.O. Box 486
Petersham, Massachusetts 01366-0486
