



TOWN OF PETERSHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

**Report of the Petersham Advisory Finance Committee
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020**

•
**Special & Annual Town Meeting Warrants
FOR JUNE 3, 2019**



DEDICATION

This 2019 Report is dedicated posthumously to Petersham resident **Dorothy ‘Dot’ Waid**. At the time of her passing in February 2019, at age 98, Dot Waid was the oldest citizen of Petersham.

Dorothy was born in Hardwick in 1920 and raised in the town of Dana. She moved to Petersham in 1938 when the Quabbin Reservoir was created. Following graduation from Petersham High School, Dorothy attended Becker Secretarial School in Worcester and earned her Associate degree. Dorothy and Charles F. Waid married in March 1944. After Charlie concluded service in the Army Air Corps, the couple moved back to Petersham where they set deep roots.

Dorothy worked at Harvard Forest for many years as secretary to the professors and she spent several years working at the former Brandon School in Petersham.

As a member of the Petersham Orthodox Congregational Church, Dot enjoyed working at the annual village fairs on the Common. She was an active member of the Petersham Grange No. 95 and served as secretary of the agricultural fairs during the 1950s.

Along with having the distinction of being the oldest Petersham resident, Dorothy was one of the oldest living family members of the Town of Dana, one of the “lost towns” of the Quabbin Reservoir, and she always enjoyed attending the annual Dana Day Reunions.



DOROTHY BERRY WAID
1920-2019

ON THE COVER

This year's report cover highlights Petersham Town Hall and the town flag and flagpole on the Common. Today's Town Hall opened in 1960 after the prior 1850 Town Hall was lost to fire in 1957. Working within budget constraints, residents chose to have the 1960 building designed as a reproduction of the original hall. A wooden flagpole long stood sentry on the Common until age and stormy weather eventually forced replacement with the 50 foot flagpole we know today. In 2017, the Petersham flagpole was dedicated to resident Bill Berry in recognition of his faithful raising and lowering of the flag. 2019 marks Bill's 30th year providing this service. Each Memorial Day the flag is raised in honor of local veterans who have passed during the year.



Flagpole, Town Hall, and the First District School in 1904 during the 150th anniversary of the town.



1963 photo shows Police Chief Bill Ellsworth at top of the wooden two-piece extension flagpole.



Early postcards depicting Town Hall can be found for sale; this card was postmarked 1910.



Town Hall serves as a venue for a wide range of activities throughout the year from town business, such as Town Meeting shown here, to community programs and private affairs.



TOWN OF PETERSHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Budget Report of the Petersham Advisory Finance Committee FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

●

Special & Annual Town Meeting Warrants FOR JUNE 3, 2019

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Glossary of Terms	2
Town Budget	
Summary of Total Fiscal Year 2020 Recommended Town Budget	3
Report from the Advisory Finance Committee	4
Fiscal Year 2020 Estimated Cherry Sheet	6
Fiscal Year 2020 Line Item Budget Sheets	7
Fiscal Year 2019 Special Articles	12
Fiscal Year 2020 Special Articles	13
Description of the Consent Calendar	14
Special Town Meeting Warrant	
Fiscal Year 2019 Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles	15
Annual Town Meeting Warrant	
Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles	16
Proposed School Budgets for Fiscal Year 2020	
Summary of Proposed Appropriation by Each School	24
Petersham Center School	25
Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District	28
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District	30

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.

Debt Exclusion: A debt exclusion is meant to finance a particular project. Property taxes will increase for a specific period of time – during the life of the loan – to cover the cost of the project. When the bond on that project is paid off, the increase to your town's levy limit is revoked. The levy limit is the total overall amount any community is allowed to raise through taxation. So the temporary tax increase for that project goes away. The question of using a debt exclusion must ultimately be approved by voters at a ballot election.

Enterprise Fund: A fund that provides goods or services to the public for a fee that makes the entity self-supporting.

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.

Town of Petersham Annual Town Meeting – June 3, 2019

Report to the Voters from the Advisory Finance Committee
Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020)

Dear Voters, Please read this Report prior to the Special & Annual Town Meetings at Petersham Center School on Monday, June 3, 2019, at 7:30 PM. When questions arise, the Advisory Finance Committee, Selectboard, School Committees, and/or others, will answer your questions as best they can.

The sum of the GENERAL BUDGET (Sheets shown on Report pages 7– 11) and the Special Articles (shown on Report page 13) is the TOTAL PETERSHAM BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018 and is shown in summary below. The Advisory Finance Committee has drafted a TOTAL PETERSHAM BUDGET that is under Proposition 2-1/2, and will NOT require an override election if all our recommendations are followed. *-Respectfully submitted,*

Ross France, *Chair*
Richard Cavanaugh, *Vice Chair*
Donald Clarkson, *Clerk*
Mark Bishop

SUMMARY TOTAL PETERSHAM BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

		FY2020 AFC Recommended Budget	FY2020 Original Request
TOWN EXPENSES:			
Selectboard's Budget - Appropriation		\$1,431,415	\$1,431,415
Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District - Appropriation		885,870	885,870
Montachusett Regional Tech School District - Appropriation		14,686	14,686
Petersham Center School - Appropriation		1,519,334	1,519,334
	TOTAL GENERAL BUDGET	3,851,305	3,851,305
	TOTAL SPECIAL ARTICLES	471,198	471,198
	TOTAL PETERSHAM BUDGET	\$4,322,503	\$4,322,503
TOWN REVENUE:			
Massachusetts State Aid - Includes Chapter 70 Reimbursement of	\$435,523	\$628,407	\$628,407
Less: School Choice Outgoing		(78,000)	(78,000)
Local Receipts		828,260	828,260
Stabilization Fund		66,058	66,058
Free Cash		109,134	109,134
Overlay Excess		-	-
Specified Funds		34,031	34,031
Prop. 2-1/2 Levy Limit	\$2,740,045 * Tax Levy		
	<input type="text" value="100.00%"/>	\$2,740,044	
Debt Exclusion - Petersham Center School		103,195	
Debt Exclusion - Ralph C. Mahar RSD		22,253	
Debt Exclusion - Nichewaug Abatement		47,065	
Debt Exclusion - Broadband		28,000	
Total Tax Levy with Debt Exclusion		2,940,557	2,940,557
Less: Overlay Reserve		(50,000)	(50,000)
	TOTAL POTENTIAL REVENUE AT THE LEVY LIMIT	\$4,478,447	\$4,478,447
	RECOMMENDED AVAILABLE TAX LEVY NOT USED	\$155,944	\$155,945

Report by the Petersham Advisory Finance Committee

For Annual Town Meeting on June 3, 2019 / For Fiscal Year 2020

Summary

Our next fiscal year tax appropriation will be approximately \$91,000 more than last year, leading to an estimated increase of \$0.87/\$1,000 in the tax rate, which is a 5.13% increase over the current year.

Fiscal Goals and Efforts

The Town is in a good financial position due to our collective efforts to achieve the following fiscal goals:

1. The primary goal and responsibility of the Advisory Finance Committee (AFC) 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. 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 Ralph C. Mahar Regional School (Mahar) and Montachusett Regional Technical School).
2. We strive to keep the general operating budget under the Proposition 2 1/2 levy limit, in order to be able to fund special articles i.e., so-called "non-operating expenses".
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 recommending 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 varies considerably from year to year. (This year we have \$109,134, after using \$18,441 for Fiscal Year 2019 Snow removal). We generally limit the use of Free Cash to payment for capital improvement (CIPC) articles or to increase the Stabilization Fund.
5. We plan for future contingencies by means of the Stabilization Fund, which is our Town "savings account."

In planning for the FY2020 budget, we set our goal of keeping the total budget (general budget + special articles) approximately \$150,000 under the Proposition 2 1/2 levy limit. Maintaining such "excess levy capacity" enables the Town to deal with late-breaking revenue shortfalls. You will see a surplus at the bottom of the Report on page 3 of approximately \$156,000. This is an additional amount the Town could levy, but chooses not to.

The Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget

There are several budget requests that we call to your attention:

The Mahar school budget request is primarily responsible for the projected increase in appropriations for Fiscal Year 2020. The requested increase in the appropriation from the Mahar is about \$117,500 or about 15.3% over this year. The AFC understands that the increase is primarily the result of an increase in the percentage of the number of Petersham students relative to students from the other Towns in the District. This request could result in an increase of about \$0.84 on the tax rate.

The Petersham Center School (PCS) budget request for Fiscal Year 2020 is an increase in the appropriation of about \$10,000 or about 0.7% over this year. This request could result in an increase of about \$0.07 on the tax rate.

A couple of facts about PCS finances:

- 21% of expenses, or \$426,000, is for Special Education costs.
- State Chapter 70 funding has only increased an average of 0.5% over the last 6 years.
- The budget, for students choosing out of the PCS, increased by almost \$12,000 over this year.
This request could result in an increase of about \$0.09 on the tax rate.

While the Advisory Finance Committee is recommending approval of the above items, please feel free to call for a "hold" when these items come up for a vote to hear the rationale for the specific budget item.

Additional noteworthy changes in the Fiscal Year 2020 general budget include:

1. The Selectboard has reduced the hours of the Administrative Coordinator position and increased the combined hours of the Part-time Office Assistant and Floating Secretary. The result is a reduction in budgeted salaries of \$13,052.
2. The Montachusett Regional Technical School assessment decreased by \$25,823 largely due to the reduced enrollment of two Petersham students.
3. We have relocated the \$1,100 Council of Aging budget request from placement in Special Articles as in prior years to the Town Operating budget for FY20 and noted it with the word *CHANGE*.
4. The Open Space and Recreation Committee has requested \$900 in funding this year and that request is included in the Town operating budget as with other committee budgets and noted as *NEW*.

Overall, the Town's general operating budget (not including Special Articles) is \$87,000 more than last year, an increase of about 2.3%.

Special Articles and Free Cash

Among the noteworthy special articles are the following:

1. Article 29 (Cyclical Reassessment of Values) is required by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. We recommend this article in order to comply with State law.
2. Article 26 (Debt Service – Asbestos abatement) The Town borrowed \$384,000 to pay for the abatement of asbestos in the Nichewaugh Inn and Academy building approved previously in a Special Town Meeting. The budget includes \$47,065 for debt service, of which \$20,589 is coming from taxation. This request results in an increase of about \$0.15 on the tax rate.
3. Article 27 (Debt Service – Broadband 2016 Special Town Meeting) The Town borrowed \$260,000 to pay for make ready services. The budget includes \$32,500 for debt service. (\$26,000 of Principal and \$6,500 of Interest). This request results in an increase of about \$0.23 on the tax rate.
4. Article 28 (Debt Service – Broadband 2018 Special Town Meeting) The Town borrowed an additional \$800,000 to pay for make ready services. The budget includes \$28,000 for interest only debt service. It is expected that the Commonwealth will reimburse the Town up to \$880,000 for the Town's broadband related expenditures. This request results in an increase of about \$0.20 on the tax rate.
5. Article 31 (Police Body Armor), Article 33 (Fire Engine), Article 34 (Paving Repair) and Article 32 (Police Special Service Vehicle) are Capital Improvement Planning Committee (CIPC) recommendations. We support these articles as part of the Town's ongoing capital improvement plan. All of these are funded with Free Cash, except Article 33. The Fire Engine is funded by borrowing \$180,000 and in combination of available funding sources, including Free Cash (\$26,367), Stabilization Funds (\$66,058) and other funds (\$7,555) with the balance of the purchase price coming from borrowing.
6. Article 36 (Town Hall Sump Pump). We support this article as a relocation/replacement are needed.
7. Article 35 (Library Restroom) We support this article that provides a portion of the estimated \$40,000 improvement cost required to build out a new Library restroom facility.

Free Cash is \$127,575 this year. We have recommended using \$18,441 of Free Cash to close the FY2019 Snow Removal account and \$109,134 for Fiscal Year 2020 CIPC projects as well as the Library restroom project.

Conclusion

This year's total recommended budget is approximately \$138,000 more than the FY2019. In the absence of any other changes, voters can expect to see an increase in the tax rate of about \$0.87/\$1000 over this year. 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 Estimated Cherry Sheet

	FY2020	FY2019	FY2018
Education			
Chapter 70	435,523	432,723	431,323
State Fiscal Stabilization Fund	-	-	-
School Transportation	-	-	-
School Lunch	-	-	-
Sub-Total Education Items	435,523	432,723	431,323
	Change from last yr> 0.6%	0.3%	0.5%
General Government			
Lottery	-	-	-
General Aid/Supplemental Lottery	-	-	-
Unrestricted General Government Aid	121,736	118,536	114,528
Annual Formula Local Aid	-	-	-
Room Tax Increase	-	-	-
Highway Fund	-	-	-
Veterans' Benefits	3,830	-	4,240
Exemptions: Vets, Blind & Surviving Spouse, Elderly	8,258	8,483	8,121
State Owned Land	58,372	58,708	64,067
Public Libraries	2,719	2,490	2,591
Sub-Total General Government	194,915	188,217	193,547
	Change from last yr> 3.6%	-2.8%	1.8%
Total Estimated Cherry Sheet Receipts	630,438	620,940	624,870
Net Charges	(2,031)	(1,541)	(1,147)
TOTAL STATE AID	628,407	619,399	623,723
	Change from last yr> 1.5%	-0.7%	0.9%
School Choice Sending	(78,000)	(65,907)	(35,000)
School Choice Incoming	321,035	351,738	374,450
Local Receipts			
Other Department Revenue	ESTIMATED	ESTIMATED	ACTUAL
Motor Vehicle Excise	201,755	201,755	201,755
Penalties & Interest on Taxes & Excise	16,910	16,910	16,910
Payments in Lieu of Taxes - DCR	500,028	500,028	500,024
Payments in Lieu of Taxes – Heywood/Quabbin Retreat	30,000	30,000	22,500
Fees	126	126	126
Rentals	450	450	450
Other Department Revenue (including Transfer Station Fees)	39,023	39,023	39,023
Licenses & Permits	27,807	27,807	27,807
Fines & Forfeits	6,360	6,360	6,360
Investment Income	2,075	2,075	2,075
Misc. Non recurring	3,726	3,726	3,726
TOTAL LOCAL RECEIPTS	828,260	828,260	820,756
	Change from last yr> 0.0%	0.9%	10.1%

Town of Petersham – General Budget Fiscal Year 2020

	Sheet	Requested FY2020	RECOMMENDED FY2020	Budget FY2019	Budget FY2018	Budget FY2017
Moderator — Salary	1	-	-	-	-	-
Moderator Expenses	1	70	70	70	70	70
Selectboard – Salaries	2	8,065	8,065	7,867	7,673	7,485
Part-time Office Assistant – Salary	2	14,350	14,350	5,697	5,385	5,253
Part-time Office – Floating Sec.-Salary	2	-	-	3,864	3,770	3,678
Expenses	2	4,280	4,280	4,284	4,284	4,284
Legal Fees	3	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Medicare	4	23,705	23,705	25,898	23,603	24,562
Unemployment	5	-	-	15,000	5,000	1,000
Administrative Coordinator – Salary	6	21,957	21,957	48,481	47,298	46,144
Administrative Coordinator – Overtime	7	-	-	878	856	835
Software Maintenance	8	-	-	-	-	-
Central Telephone System	9	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500
Audit	10	-	-	-	-	-
Town Hall & Office Building Maintenance	11	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
Treasurer – Salary	12	17,815	17,815	17,380	15,980	15,590
Treasurer Expenses	12	6,585	6,585	4,385	4,285	4,185
Treasurer Account Bank Fees	13	1	1	1	1	1
Payroll Processing	14	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,400
Town Accountant – Salary	15	21,013	21,013	20,500	20,000	15,590
Accounting Clerk – Salary	15	2,155	2,155	2,102	2,050	2,000
Accountant Expenses	15	6,271	6,271	6,021	5,693	5,122
Printing (Town Reports, By-Laws, Valuation Books, Street Lists, etc.)	16	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750
Tax Collector – Salary	17	14,101	14,101	13,757	13,421	13,110
Tax Collector – Expenses	17	18,066	18,066	18,066	18,066	18,065
Tax Collector – Account Bank Fees	18	-	-	-	-	-

Town of Petersham – General Budget Fiscal Year 2020 *(continued)*

	Sheet	<u>Requested FY2020</u>	RECOMMENDED <u>FY2020</u>	<u>Budget FY2019</u>	<u>Budget FY2018</u>	<u>Budget FY2017</u>
Board of Assessors – Salaries	19	8,891	8,891	8,673	8,460	8,253
Assistant Assessor – Salary	19	34,713	34,713	33,866	33,040	32,234
Expenses	19	19,910	19,910	18,892	18,325	18,710
Town Clerk – Salary	20	11,408	11,408	11,129	10,858	10,093
Town Clerk Part-time Assistant – Salary	20	684	684	667	650	634
Town Clerk – Expenses	20	2,959	2,959	4,559	2,959	2,909
Software & Software Maintenance	20	1,434	1,434	1,285	1,285	3,902
Land Court Fees	21	1	1	1	1	1
Vital Statistics	22	100	100	100	100	100
Election & Registration – Salaries	23	7,000	7,000	8,000	2,700	5,400
Election & Registration – Expenses	23	1,725	1,725	1,725	1,650	1,650
Planning Board Admin – Salary	24	-	-	-	-	-
Planning Board – Expenses	24	-	-	-	-	-
Historic Commission – Expenses	25	85	85	85	85	85
Historic District Commission – Expenses	26	252	252	252	252	252
Advisory Finance Committee – Expenses	27	505	505	505	505	505
Town Hall & Town Office – Expenses	28	24,076	24,076	24,076	22,584	26,697
Zoning Board of Appeals – Salaries	29	513	513	500		
Zoning Board of Appeals – Expenses	29	460	460	460	500	500
Zoning Board – Consultant/Expenses	29	-	-	-	960	960
Computer Service	62	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
TOTAL GENERAL OFFICE & FINANCE:		304,400	304,400	340,276	313,599	311,009
		Change over previous year>>				
		-10.5%	-10.5%	8.5%	0.8%	6.9%

Town of Petersham – General Budget Fiscal Year 2020 *(continued)*

PROTECTION OF PERSONS & PROPERTY

Building Inspector – Salary	32	-	-	-	-	10,546	
Building Inspector – Clerical Asst. Salary	32	2,987	2,987	2,730	2,628	4,063	
Building Inspector – Contracted Expenses	32	9,766	9,766	7,714	7,558	1,260	
Police Department:							
Chief – Salary	33	79,187	79,187	77,255	75,370	73,531	
Full-time Officer – Salary	33	55,835	55,835	54,473	53,144	51,847	
Full-time Officer – Overtime Wages	33	5,712	5,712	5,572	3,510	3,424	
Part-time Officers – Salaries	33	49,128	49,128	47,929	31,912	31,133	
Officers' Training	33	9,207	9,207	8,982	7,236	7,059	
Police Dept. – Expenses	33	40,195	40,195	39,355	35,803	35,803	
Fire Department:							
Chief – Salary	34	3,982	3,982	3,884	3,789	3,696	
Fire Dept. Members – Salaries	34	24,855	24,855	24,443	24,241	23,849	
Fire Dept. – Expenses	34	31,125	31,125	30,725	29,575	29,575	
Public Safety Communications							
Radio Repair	35	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	
IMC & LEAPS	35	3,610	3,610	3,610	3,075	3,075	
Forest Warden	36	26	26	25	25	25	
Tree Warden – Salary	37	3,075	3,075	3,000	3,000	3,000	
Tree Warden – Expenses	37	685	685	685	685	535	
Animal Control – Salary	38	3,081	3,081	3,005	2,005	1,954	
Animal Control – Expenses	38	1,425	1,425	1,425	1,425	1,425	
Insurance – Property, Liability, Workers' Comp, IOD	39	83,077	83,077	81,366	76,210	72,370	
Insurance – Nichewaung Inn & Academy Property	39	5,720	5,720	5,720	7,837	7,256	
Emergency Management – Salary & Expenses	40	5,516	5,516	5,483	5,451	5,420	
Conservation Commission	41	-	-	-	-	-	
Hearing Enforcement Officer	64	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL PROTECTION PERSONS & PROPERTY:		419,994	419,994	409,181	376,279	372,646	
		Change over previous year>>	2.6%	2.6%	8.7%	1.0%	5.0%

Town of Petersham – General Budget Fiscal Year 2020 *(continued)*

	Sheet	Requested FY2020	RECOMMENDED FY2020	Budget FY2019	Budget FY2018	Budget FY2017
HEALTH AND SANITATION						
Administration and Health						
Board of Health – Salaries	42	517	517	503	490	477
Board of Health – Admin. Assistant Salary	42	7,076	7,076	6,473	6,232	6,080
Board of Health – Expenses	42	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,700
Inspector of Animals - Salary	43	2,587	2,587	2,523	2,460	2,400
Transfer Station Operations	65	52,087	52,087	52,000	52,000	52,000
TOTAL HEALTH AND SANITATION:		64,967	64,967	64,199	63,882	63,657
Change over previous year>>		1.2%	1.2%	0.5%	0.4%	3.9%
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT						
		request vs. 2019	recomm. vs. 2019			
Superintendent – Salary *	44	52,725	52,725	51,439	50,184	48,813
Highway Dept Other – Salaries *	44	100,373	100,373	96,479	94,125	91,955
*(48 weeks - additional 4 weeks from MA Chapt. 90)						
Town Barn Account – Expenses	45	8,150	8,150	8,150	8,485	8,485
General Highways – Expenses	46	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	54,000
Snow & Ice Removal	47	60,000	60,000	60,000	55,000	55,000
Street Lights	48	7,500	7,500	7,500	6,500	6,500
TOTAL HIGHWAY DEPT.:		278,748	278,748	273,568	264,294	264,753
Change over previous year>>		1.9%	1.9%	3.5%	-0.2%	1.1%
		request vs. 2019	recomm. vs. 2019			
CHARITIES & VETERANS BENEFITS						
District Veteran Agent – District Allocation	49	3,684	3,684	3,483	3,851	3,655
Veterans – Benefits	49	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
TOTAL VETERANS BENEFITS:		12,684	12,684	12,483	12,851	12,655
Change over previous year>>		1.6%	1.6%	-2.9%	1.5%	7.4%

Town of Petersham – General Budget Fiscal Year 2020 *(continued)*

UNCLASSIFIED

Library	50	9,550	9,550	9,420	9,300	9,190
Bandstand Lighting	51	325	325	325	325	325
Town Clock	52	73	73	73	73	73
County Retirement	53	155,557	155,557	151,368	138,452	135,553
Memorial Day	55	645	645	645	645	645
Care of Common	56	7,863	7,863	7,680	7,680	7,680
Interest – Includes Broadband Loan Interest	57	-	-		5,400	-
Cemetery Commission – Salary	59	761	761	720	-	-
Cemetery Commission – Cemetery Care Contract	59	20,985	20,985	20,985	20,523	20,523
Cemetery Commission – Expenses	59	3,000	3,000	3,050	300	350
Healthcare Insurance – For full-time employees	60	68,813	68,813	49,120	22,005	72,837
Healthcare Insurance – For retirees	63	54,050	54,050	66,782	54,429	65,000
High Tree Work – Pruning, Removal, Planting	61	27,000	27,000	27,000	27,000	25,000
Open Space and Recreation *NEW*	66	900	900			
Council on Aging *CHANGE*	67	1,100	1,100			
TOTAL UNCLASSIFIED:		350,622	350,622	337,168	286,132	337,176
Change over previous year>>		4.0%	4.0%	17.8%	-15.1%	12.3%
TOTAL SELECTBOARD'S BUDGET:		1,431,415	1,431,415	1,436,875	1,317,037	1,361,896
Change over previous year>>		-0.4%	-0.4%	9.1%	-3.3%	6.3%

EDUCATION BUDGET

RALPH C. MAHAR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT		885,870	885,870	768,307	742,371	759,205
		15.3%	15.3%	3.5%	-2.2%	-8.2%
MONTACHUSETT TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT		14,686	14,686	40,505	27,801	54,180
		-63.7%	-63.7%	45.7%	-48.7%	-15.7%
PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL						
Regular Education and General Expense		1,583,010	1,583,010	1,554,738	1,503,229	1,425,810
Special Needs Education Expense		425,740	425,740	367,704	368,098	343,715
PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL BUDGET TOTAL		2,008,750	2,008,750	1,922,442	1,871,327	1,769,525
Less: Known Income + Choice carryover		(108,949)	(108,949)	(63,271)	(44,831)	(77,851)
Less: Incoming School Choice		(321,035)	(321,035)	(350,000)	(374,450)	(384,684)
Reserve – from Incoming School Choice*		(59,432)	(59,432)	-	-	-
PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL APPROPRIATION		1,519,334	1,519,334	1,509,171	1,452,046	1,306,990
		0.7%	0.7%	3.9%	11.1%	6.8%
TOTAL EDUCATION BUDGET APPROPRIATION:		2,419,890	2,419,890	2,317,983	2,222,218	2,120,375
GRAND TOTAL GENERAL BUDGET:		3,851,305	3,851,305	3,754,358	3,539,255	3,482,271
Grand Total General Budget -Change over previous year>>		2.6%	2.6%	6.1%	1.6%	2.5%
ALL 3 school budgets (change over previous year)>>		8.9%	8.9%	4.3%	4.8%	0.3%

**Town of Petersham
Special Articles Fiscal Year 2019 Special Town Meeting**

FY2019 — RECOMMENDED ARTICLES AND FUNDING SOURCES

	ARTICLE	APPROPRIATE	RAISE BY TAXATION	FROM FREE CASH	REQUESTED AMOUNT
Snow Removal Deficit	1	\$18,441.00		\$18,441.00	\$18,441.00
TOTAL SPECIAL ARTICLES		\$18,441.00		\$18,441.00	\$18,441.00

Town of Petersham

Special Articles Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Town Meeting

FY2020 — RECOMMENDED ARTICLES AND FUNDING SOURCES

Description	ARTICLE #	Type	TOTAL APPROPRIATE Recommended	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	21		\$1,800.0	\$1,800.0					\$1,800	\$0.01
Debt Service - Petersham Center School Construction	23	DE	103,195	103,195					103,195	0.72
Debt Service - Mahar RSD Construction	24	DE	22,253	22,253					22,253	0.16
Debt Service - Mahar RSD Dam Repair	25		183	183					183	0.00
Debt Service - Nichewaug Hazardous Material Abatement	26	DE	47,065	20,589				26,476	47,065	0.33 *
Debt Service - Broadband make-ready	27		32,500	32,500					32,500	0.23
Debt Service - Broadband make-ready	28	DE	28,000	28,000					28,000	0.20
Assessors - Cyclical Reassessment of Values	29		10,105	10,105					10,105	0.07
Nichewaug Inn & Academy Maintenance Account	30		2,500	2,500					2,500	0.02
CIPC - Police Dept. Body Armor (50% reimbursement from USDOJ)	31		9,542			9,542			9,542	0.07 *
CIPC - Police Dept. SSV Pickup Truck	32		48,205			48,205			48,205	0.34 *
CIPC - Fire Dept. Pumper Truck	33		100,000		66,058	26,387		7,555	100,000	0.70 *
CIPC - Town Hall Paving Repair Parking & Walkways	34		10,000			10,000			10,000	0.07 *
Library Accessible Restroom	35		15,000			15,000			15,000	0.11 *
Town Hall Sump Pump	36		4,850	4,850					4,850	0.03
Reserve Fund	37		35,000	35,000					35,000	0.25
Citizens Petition - Farmers Market concerts	42		1,000	1,000					1,000	0.01
Stabilization Fund										-
TOTAL SPECIAL ARTICLES			\$471,198	\$261,975	\$66,058	\$109,134		\$34,031	\$471,198	
Proposed General Total Budget			\$3,851,305						\$3,851,305	
GRAND TOTAL BUDGET			\$4,322,503						\$4,322,503	

* if raised by taxation and not other funds

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 16–18) 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 16–24). 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
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
June 3, 2019

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 **\$18,441.09** to **eliminate the Fiscal Year 2019 Snow and Ice Account deficit**; or act in relation thereto.

– RECOMMENDED

Town of Petersham
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
June 3, 2019

ARTICLE 1.

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

— BEGINNING OF 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 2020, 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 2020; 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 2020; 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 2020; 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 2020; 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 \$20,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2020; 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 \$2,500.00** for Fiscal Year 2020; 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 \$2,600.00** for Fiscal Year 2020; 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 \$10,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2020; 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 \$6,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2020; 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 \$2,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2020; 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 **not to exceed \$5,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2020; 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 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 \$1,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2020; 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 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 \$3,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2020; 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 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 \$10,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2020; 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 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 \$3,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2020; 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**, said expenditures to be 100% reimbursed by the State; or act in relation thereto.

— RECOMMENDED

— END OF CONSENT AGENDA —

ARTICLE 19.

Fiscal Year 2020 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 2020 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 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 \$17,815.00; Town Clerk \$11,408.00; Tax Collector \$14,101.00; Selectboard, Chair, \$2,927.00; two members \$2,568.00 each; Board of Assessors, Chair, \$3,316.00, Clerk, \$2,870.00, other member, \$2,702.00; Trustee of Library FREE; Constables \$12.82/PER HOUR; Board of Health chair, \$209.00, other members, \$154.00 each;** 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 **\$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.

— VOTER PREFERENCE

ARTICLE 22.

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 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 **\$103,195.00** to pay the Fiscal Year 2020 **principal and interest due on the construction note for the Petersham Center School building** construction; 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 **\$22,253.00**

to pay the Fiscal Year 2020 **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 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 **\$183.00** to pay the Fiscal Year 2020 **interest on the note for repairs to the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District dam**; 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 Account No. 255698–'CDBG Town of Athol Expenses', take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$47,065.00** to pay the **principal and interest due on the note for asbestos removal at the Nichewaug Inn & Academy building**; 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 **\$32,500.00** 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 approved by vote of the Special Town Meeting of December 12, 2016** under Article 5; 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 **\$28,000.00** to pay the interest due on the note for debt incurred for project expenses **for completion of the town-wide broadband network as approved by vote of the Special Town Meeting of November 19, 2018** under Article 2; or 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 **\$10,105.00** for the **Board of Assessors to contract for services for the revaluation update of values of all real estate** for Fiscal Year 2020, as required by State law; 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 **\$2,500.00** for deposit in the existing General Fund Account No. 015925.046–'**Nichewaug Inn & Academy Maintenance'** for general maintenance of the property; 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 **\$9,542.00** for payment to purchase new **body armor vests for Police Department officers**; 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 **\$48,205.00** for payment to purchase a **Special Service Vehicle SSV pick-up truck cruiser for the Police Department**; 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, for a total sum of **\$280,000.00** for payment to purchase a **Quick Attack Pumper Truck for the Fire Department**; 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 **\$10,000.00** for **regrading, landscape repair, paving, and parking striping at Town Hall southern and western parking and walking areas**; 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 **\$15,000.00** for payment towards a new **first floor handicap accessible restroom at Petersham Memorial Library**; 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 **\$4,850.00** for **installation of a sump pump at lower level of Town Hall**; 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 **\$35,000.00** for **deposit into the Reserve Fund** for Fiscal Year 2020; or act in relation thereto.

— **RECOMMENDED**

ARTICLE 38.

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.

— **RECOMMENDED**

ARTICLE 39.

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 53F½ of the Massachusetts General Laws and **establish the Broadband Subscriber Fee Account as an Enterprise Fund** effective Fiscal Year 2020; or act in relation thereto.

— **RECOMMENDED**

ARTICLE 40.

To see if the Town will vote to accept Section 20 of Chapter 32B of the General Laws authorizing the **establishment of a separate fund, to be known as the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund**, and to establish such fund on the Town’s books and accounts; or act in relation thereto.

— **RECOMMENDED**

ARTICLE 41.

To see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution to declare the Town of Petersham to be a pollinator friendly community; or act in relation thereto.

*Resolution
Declaring the Town of Petersham to be a Pollinator Friendly Community*

WHEREAS, bees and other insects pollinate vegetables, herbs, and fruits and are a necessary component of a healthy food system and ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, locally grown crops such as apples, blueberries, strawberries, squash, tomatoes, and more, depend upon bee and pollinators; and

WHEREAS, extensive research has documented the dramatic decline of native population of bumblebees, butterflies, and other pollinators; and

WHEREAS, extensive research has documented insecticides known as neonicotinoids along with other systemic insecticides cause illness and death to bees and pollinators; and

WHEREAS, alternative land management practices are available that dramatically increase pollinator forage and habitat while decreasing maintenance costs; and

WHEREAS, the monetary and social costs of maintaining pollinator-friendly landscapes can be less expensive than costs associated with maintaining chemically-treated monocrop landscapes; and

WHEREAS, Petersham has a documented tradition of support for those who labor upon farm, field, and forest, for their livelihood and the economic well-being of themselves and others; and

WHEREAS, Petersham has a dedicated history of community interest and support of protection of the natural landscape for the health, education, and enjoyment of all persons who dwell and visit within;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the participants of Town Meeting of the Town of Petersham, Massachusetts, that the Town of Petersham is hereby declared a Pollinator Friendly Community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town encourages adoption of practices that protect and promote the health of pollinators including the planting and conservation of native species of flowering plants, shrubs, and trees upon upon which pollinators depend for forage; and converting lawns to organic and chemical-free maintenance or to other ground overs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town urge all residents, neighborhoods, property owners, businesses, and institutions, to reconsider, reduce, or eliminate the use of neonicotinoids and other hazardous insecticides and to seek alternative means whenever possible of controlling harmful insects without harming beneficial pollinators; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town shall endeavor to sponsor or encourage educational programs, lectures, and demonstration projects, such as a pollinator garden, to assist citizens and businesses in making Petersham Pollinator Friendly.

— VOTER PREFERENCE

ARTICLE 42.

CITIZEN'S PETITION ARTICLE

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 support the Petersham Friday Market and its 2019 program of up to 20 live music performances to be held on the town common; or act in relation thereto.

— VOTER PREFERENCE

Summary of Town Appropriation for Proposed School Budgets 2019–2020 School Year

TOTAL PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL

BUDGET ASSESSMENT

FOR PETERSHAM SCHOOL YEAR 2019–2020

Operating Education Budget Assessment \$ 1,519,334.

Total Building Construction Debt Assessment \$ 103,195.

Total Proposed Appropriation at Town Meeting \$ 1,622,529.

TOTAL RALPH C. MAHAR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUDGET ASSESSMENT

FOR PETERSHAM SCHOOL YEAR 2019–2020

Operating Education Budget Assessment \$ 885,870.

Total Building Construction Debt Assessment \$ 22,253.

Total Dam Project Debt Assessment \$ 183.

Total Proposed Appropriation at Town Meeting \$ 908,306.

TOTAL MONTACHUSETT VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

BUDGET ASSESSMENT

FOR PETERSHAM SCHOOL YEAR 2019–2020

Operating Education Budget Assessment \$ 13,586.

Total Building Construction Debt Assessment \$ 1,100.

Total Proposed Appropriation at Town Meeting \$ 14,686.

Petersham Center School

Proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Budget, 2019–2020 School Year

EXPENDITURES	2020 Proposed Budget	2019 Budget	\$ Change	% Change Compared to FY 2019 Budget	FY 2020 % of Total Budget	FY 2019 % of Total Budget
ALL FUNDS						
ADMINISTRATION	54,337	53,755	582	1.08%	2.71%	2.76%
INSTRUCTION AND BUILDING LEADERSHIP	906,452	875,796	30,656	3.50%	45.13%	44.99%
OTHER SCHOOL SERVICES	84,875	75,841	9,034	11.91%	4.23%	3.90%
TRANSPORTATION	117,612	108,096	9,516	8.80%	5.85%	5.55%
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE	204,982	212,489	(7,507)	-3.53%	10.20%	10.92%
FIXED CHARGES	214,752	228,761	(14,009)	-6.52%	10.69%	11.75%
SPECIAL EDUCATION	425,740	391,704	34,036	8.69%	21.19%	20.12%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES - ALL FUNDS	\$ 2,008,750	\$ 1,946,442	\$ 62,308	3.20%	100.00%	100.00%
REVENUES						
ALL FUNDS						
TOWN DIRECT APPROPRIATION	1,083,811	1,076,448	7,363	0.68%	53.95%	55.30%
CHAPTER 70	435,523	432,723	2,800	0.65%	21.68%	22.23%
TOTAL TOWN APPROPRIATION	1,519,334	1,509,171	10,163	0.67%	75.64%	77.53%
SCHOOL CHOICE	380,467	350,000	30,467	8.70%	18.94%	17.98%
CIRCUIT BREAKER	27,916	24,000	3,916	16.32%	1.39%	1.23%
GRANTS	57,608	51,124	6,484	12.68%	2.87%	2.63%
SCHOOL LUNCH REVOLVING	23,425	12,147	11,278	100.00%	1.17%	0.62%
TOTAL REVENUES - ALL FUNDS	\$ 2,008,750	\$ 1,946,442	\$ 62,308	3.20%	100.00%	100.00%



Petersham Center School

Proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Budget, 2019–2020 School Year *(continued)*

**PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL
FY 2020 BUDGET DETAIL VERSION 3**

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION

	2020 Proposed Budget	2019 Adopted Budget	2019-2020 Increase (Decrease)	2020 Budget Funding Plan General Fund Appropriation	School Choice	Grants & Revolving	Total
School Committee - Secretary Salary	1,000	1,100	(100)	1,000			1,000
School Committee - Advertising	400	400	-	400			400
School Committee - Dues & Memberships	750	1,838	(1,088)	750			750
School Committee - Other	185	832	(647)	185			185
Union 73 Superintendent Salary	14,750	14,581	169	14,750			14,750
Union 73 Business Manager Salary	10,704	10,788	(84)	10,704			10,704
Union 73 HR/Payroll Salary	4,734	4,677	57	4,734			4,734
Union 73 Grants Manager Salary	5,254	4,353	901	5,254			5,254
Union 73 Registrar Salary	5,310	5,247	63	5,310			5,310
Union 73 Shared Software/Service Agreements	3,750	2,889	861	3,750			3,750
Legal	7,500	7,050	450	7,500			7,500
Total Administration	54,337	53,755	582	54,337	-	-	54,337

SCHOOL BUILDING LEADERSHIP

Principal Salary	95,660	92,880	2,780	95,660			95,660
Principal Administrative Assistant Salary	46,324	45,424	900	46,324			46,324
Principal Office Expenses	5,665	5,500	165	5,665			5,665
Principal Dues, Travel and Expenses	2,803	2,737	66	2,803			2,803
Total School Building Leadership	150,452	146,541	3,911	150,452	-	-	150,452

BUILDING TECHNOLOGY, CONT SERV

	21,000	22,050	(1,050)	21,000	-	-	21,000
--	--------	--------	---------	--------	---	---	--------

INSTRUCTION

Union 73 Curriculum Director Salary	8,535	8,483	52	8,535			8,535
Teacher Salaries	545,918	523,124	22,794	427,014	118,904		545,918
Teacher Specialist Salaries	49,565	48,132	1,433		49,565		49,565
Substitutes	22,500	17,000	5,500	22,500			22,500
Para's - Salary, Instructional Aides	14,997	14,436	561			14,997	14,997
Instructional Technology	18,500	16,583	1,917		18,500		18,500
Other Instructional Services	7,360	6,099	1,261	7,360			7,360
Other Instructional Services - Enrichment	-	-	-				-
Prof Dev, Tuition Reimb	12,950	13,005	(55)	12,950			12,950
Prof Dev, Stipends, Providers & Expenses	12,950	12,540	410	10,560		2,390	12,950
Scholar Supplies	6,000	6,000	-	6,000			6,000
Instructional Materials	19,300	18,750	550		19,300		19,300
Total Instruction	718,575	684,152	34,423	494,919	206,269	17,387	718,575



Petersham Center School

Proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Budget, 2019–2020 School Year *(continued)*

**PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL
FY 2020 BUDGET DETAIL VERSION 3**

GUIDANCE AND TESTING

	2020 Proposed Budget	2019 Adopted Budget	2019-2020 Increase (Decrease)	2020 Budget Funding Plan General Fund Appropriation	School Choice	Grants & Revolving	Total
Counselor Salary	13,925	20,628	(6,703)		13,925		13,925
Testing - Materials and Expenses	2,500	2,425	75	2,500			2,500
Total Guidance and Testing	16,425	23,053	(6,628)	2,500	13,925	-	16,425

OTHER SCHOOL SERVICES

Med/Health - School Physician	1,000	750	250	1,000			1,000
Med/Health - School Nurse	57,700	49,000	8,700		57,700		57,700
Med/Health - Supplies, Medical	2,750	4,183	(1,433)	2,750			2,750
Food Service - Salary	23,425	21,908	1,517			23,425	23,425
Total Other School Services	84,875	75,841	9,034	3,750	57,700	23,425	84,875

TRANSPORTATION

	117,612	108,096	9,516	117,612	-	-	117,612
--	---------	---------	-------	---------	---	---	---------

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Custodial Serv - Salary, Head Custodian	48,858	47,710	1,148	48,858			48,858
Custodial Serv - Salary, Night Custodian	37,518	35,392	2,126		37,518		37,518
Custodial Serv - Overtime	1,500	1,500	-	1,500			1,500
Custodial Serv - Supplies	8,178	8,178	-	8,178			8,178
Heating - Fuel Oil	34,510	39,600	(5,090)	34,510			34,510
Utilities - Electric	23,750	23,652	98	23,750			23,750
Utilities - Telephone	5,956	14,700	(8,744)	5,956			5,956
Maint of Grounds	2,875	2,875	-	2,875			2,875
Maint of Building- Repairs/Maint	32,518	23,318	9,200	32,518			32,518
Maint of Building - Alarm/Security	864	864	-	864			864
Maint of Equipment	3,500	12,700	(9,200)	3,500			3,500
Networking & Telecommunications - Internet	4,955	2,000	2,955	4,955			4,955
Total Operations and Maintenance	204,982	212,489	(7,507)	167,464	37,518	-	204,982

FIXED CHARGES

Employee Health Benefits	203,477	218,261	(14,784)	203,477			203,477
Rental - Copier Lease	8,275	7,500	775	8,275			8,275
Rental - Meraki Equipment Lease	3,000	3,000	-	3,000			3,000
Total Employee Benefits and Insurance	214,752	228,761	(14,009)	214,752	-	-	214,752

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Union 73 SPED Admin Salaries	25,844	25,250	594	25,844			25,844
Union 73 SPED Office Expenses	1,763	2,000	(237)	1,763			1,763
Union 73 SPED Travel	825	1,800	(975)	825			825
Teacher - Salary	50,569	80,901	(30,332)	50,569			50,569
Teacher - Salary, Summer Program	5,150	5,150	-	5,150			5,150
Teacher - Substitutes	1,125	1,125	-	1,125			1,125
Teacher - Home Instruction	1,000	1,000	-	1,000			1,000
Instructional Materials and Equipment	5,500	8,100	(2,600)	2,500		3,000	5,500
Para's - Salary, Instructional Aides	70,445	35,688	34,757	1,789	31,435	37,221	70,445
Med/Ther - Speech	40,730	39,931	799	40,730			40,730
Med/Ther - OT/PT Salary	19,750	19,577	173	19,750			19,750
Med/Ther - Contracted Serv, Other	3,843	3,843	-	3,843			3,843
Med/Ther - Contracted Serv, BCBA	10,400	10,400	-	10,400			10,400
Psychological Serv- Counselor	13,925	20,628	(6,703)		13,925		13,925
Psychological Serv- Evaluations	16,500	13,500	3,000	16,500			16,500
Transportation	70,185	36,630	33,555	50,490	19,695		70,185
Collaborative Assessment	650	637	13	650			650
Out of District Tuition	87,536	85,544	1,992	59,620		27,916	87,536
Total Special Education	425,740	391,704	34,036	292,548	65,055	68,137	425,740

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

	2,008,750	1,946,442	62,308	1,519,334	380,467	108,949	2,008,750
--	-----------	-----------	--------	-----------	---------	---------	-----------



Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District

Proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Budget, 2019–2020 School Year

FISCAL 2020 REGIONAL ASSESSMENT CALCULATION USING PRELIMINARY STATE BUDGET									
TOWN ASSESSMENTS	ENROLLMENT	OPERATING AND CAPITAL RATIO	MINIMUM REQUIRED CONTRIBUTION	ASSESSMENT ABOVE MINIMUM	CHOICE CHARTER ASSESSMENT	NET TRANSPORTATION ASSESSMENT	TOTAL OPERATING ASSESSMENT	DEBT ASSESSMENT	TOTAL ASSESSMENT
New Salem	48	7.9208%	\$ 354,778	\$ 175,648	\$ 51,105	\$ 48,785	\$ 630,316	\$ 17,654	\$ 647,971
Orange	466	76.8977%	1,603,841	1,703,251	496,145	473,624	4,278,860	171,393	4,450,253
Petersham	61	10.0660%	535,707	223,220	64,946	61,998	885,870	22,436	908,306
Wendell	31	5.1155%	186,064	113,439	33,005	31,507	364,016	11,402	375,418
Total	606	100.0000%	2,680,390	2,217,558	645,201	615,914	6,159,063	222,884	6,381,947

FISCAL 2019 REGIONAL ASSESSMENT CALCULATION USING FINAL STATE BUDGET									
TOWN ASSESSMENTS	ENROLLMENT	OPERATING AND CAPITAL RATIO	MINIMUM REQUIRED CONTRIBUTION	ASSESSMENT ABOVE MINIMUM	CHOICE CHARTER ASSESSMENT	NET TRANSPORTATION ASSESSMENT	TOTAL OPERATING ASSESSMENT	DEBT ASSESSMENT	TOTAL ASSESSMENT
New Salem	56	8.9172%	\$ 375,436	\$ 179,352	\$ 53,149	\$ 34,236	\$ 662,173	\$ 22,585	\$ 684,758
Orange	488	77.7070%	1,622,581	1,562,921	463,157	472,628	4,111,297	196,812	4,308,110
Petersham	54	8.5987%	491,809	172,946	51,251	52,299	768,305	21,778	790,084
Wendell	30	4.7771%	186,452	96,081	28,473	29,055	340,061	12,099	352,160
Total	628	100.0000%	2,686,288	2,011,300	596,030	608,218	5,881,836	253,275	6,135,111

INCREASE (DECREASE) IN ASSESSMENT									
New Salem	(8)	-0.9964%	(20,658)	(3,703)	(2,044)	(5,451)	(11,856)	(4,931)	(16,787)
Orange	(22)	-0.8093%	(8,750)	142,330	32,988	996	167,563	(25,420)	142,143
Petersham	7	1.4673%	43,898	50,273	13,695	9,699	117,565	657	118,222
Wendell	1	0.3384%	(388)	17,358	4,533	2,452	23,955	(697)	23,257
Total	(22)	0.0000%	\$ 14,102	\$ 206,258	\$ 49,171	\$ 7,696	\$ 277,227	\$ (30,391)	\$ 246,836

	% INCREASE/(DECREASE)
New Salem	5.37%
Orange	3.30%
Petersham	14.96%
Wendell	6.60%
Total	4.02%

Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District

Proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Budget, 2019–2020 School Year *(continued)*

GENERAL FUND	Object Code	2019 Budget	FY 2020 Proposed Budget	% Change		FY 2019 % of Total Budget	FY 2020 % of Total Budget
				\$ Change	Compared to FY 2019 Budget		
DISTRICT LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION	1000	417,704	425,529	7,825	1.87%	3.25%	3.26%
INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	2000	5,415,560	5,613,646	198,086	3.66%	42.15%	43.03%
OTHER SCHOOL SERVICES	3000	1,520,911	1,553,199	32,288	2.12%	11.84%	11.91%
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF PLANT	4000	953,794	954,304	510	0.05%	7.42%	7.31%
BENEFITS AND FIXED CHARGES	5000	2,147,773	2,150,430	2,657	0.12%	16.72%	16.48%
FIXED ASSETS	7000	22,000	22,000	-	0.00%	0.17%	0.17%
DEBT RETIREMENT AND SERVICE	8000	231,275	222,884	(8,391)	-3.63%	1.80%	1.71%
PROGRAMS WITH OTHER DISTRICTS	9000	2,137,962	2,104,414	(33,548)	-1.57%	16.64%	16.13%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES - GENERAL FUND		12,846,979	13,046,406	199,427	1.55%	100.00%	100.00%

Mahar RSD School building construction bond maturity date – 2025.

MAHAR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT DEBT ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW										
	Maturity Date: 8/1/2025			Maturity Date: 5/26/22			Total Debt		Debt Share	
	Bond Payable - School Construction			Note Payable-Dam Interest			Amount	Increase (Decrease)	Percentage	Outstanding Amount
	1-Oct Enrollment	Amount	Increase (Decrease)	1-Oct Enrollment	Amount	Increase (Decrease)				
NEW SALEM										
New Salem Debt Assessment - 2020	48	17,510	(3,827)	48	144	(2,104)	17,654	(4,931)	7.92%	86,653
ORANGE										
Orange Debt Assessment - 2020	466	169,997	(7,239)	466	1,356	(18,191)	171,393	(25,420)	76.90%	841,261
PETERSHAM										
Petersham Debt Assessment - 2020	61	22,253	2,642	61	183	(1,985)	22,436	657	10.07%	110,122
WENDELL										
Wendell Debt Assessment - 2020	31	11,309	414	31	93	(1,111)	11,402	(697)	5.12%	55,964
Total Debt Assessment - 2020	606	221,069	(7,000)	606	1,815	(23,391)	1,815	222,884	(30,391)	
Total Debt Outstanding - 2020 (June 30, 2020)		1,050,000			44,000		1,094,000		100.00%	1,094,000

Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School Proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Budget, 2020–2019 School Year

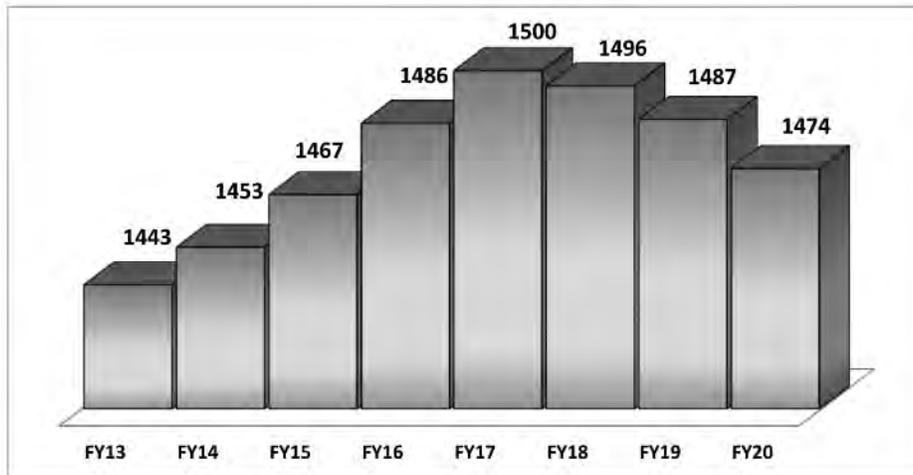
COMMUNITY ASSESSMENTS

COMMUNITIES	FY2020 FOUNDATION ENROLLMENT	FISCAL YEAR 2019					PROPOSED ASSESSMENT FY'2020	FY2019 FOUNDATION ENROLLMENT	APPROVED ASSESSMENT FY2019	CHANGE FY'19 - FY'20
		FOUNDATION BUDGET	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)				
			REQUIRED MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION	TRANSPORT/ OPERATING ASSESS.	CAPITAL ASSESS.	BONDS				
Ashburnham	59	996,998	459,284	29,342	12,070	10,019	510,715	64	500,692	10,023
Ashby	32	540,745	309,666	15,914	4,786	3,973	334,339	29	292,348	41,991
Athol	99	1,672,929	259,026	49,235	18,486	15,345	342,092	89	289,795	52,297
Barre	61	1,030,794	399,861	30,337	9,102	7,556	446,856	44	316,699	130,157
Fitchburg	391	6,607,223	1,861,158	194,455	71,785	59,590	1,986,987	385	1,876,912	110,075
Gardner	195	3,295,162	1,036,922	96,979	30,497	25,316	1,189,713	179	1,047,452	142,261
Harvard	3	50,695	41,823	1,492	12,515	10,389	86,220	5	75,877	(9,657)
Holden	80	1,351,861	791,756	39,786	37,968	31,518	901,029	76	833,376	67,653
Hubbardston	63	1,064,591	605,625	31,332	6,592	5,472	649,021	69	654,389	(5,368)
Lunenburg	74	1,250,472	710,370	36,802	20,116	16,699	783,987	82	820,560	(36,573)
Petersham	1	16,898	11,763	497	1,325	1,100	14,666	3	40,499	(25,813)
Phillipston	20	337,965	174,408	9,947	2,146	1,782	188,283	23	208,184	(19,901)
Princeton	26	439,355	362,466	12,930	5,313	4,411	385,123	24	333,128	51,995
Royalston	13	219,677	81,162	6,465	1,466	1,217	90,311	18	118,094	(27,783)
Sterling	62	1,047,693	780,229	30,834	13,137	10,905	835,106	66	826,397	8,709
Templeton	91	1,537,742	584,210	45,257	11,120	9,231	649,817	101	681,750	(31,933)
Westminster	65	1,098,387	603,152	32,326	14,169	11,762	661,410	70	705,105	(43,695)
Winchendon	139	2,348,859	756,011	89,128	17,407	14,450	856,996	160	919,899	(62,903)
Total	1474	24,908,048	9,628,894	733,060	290,000	240,736	10,892,689	1487	10,541,157	351,532

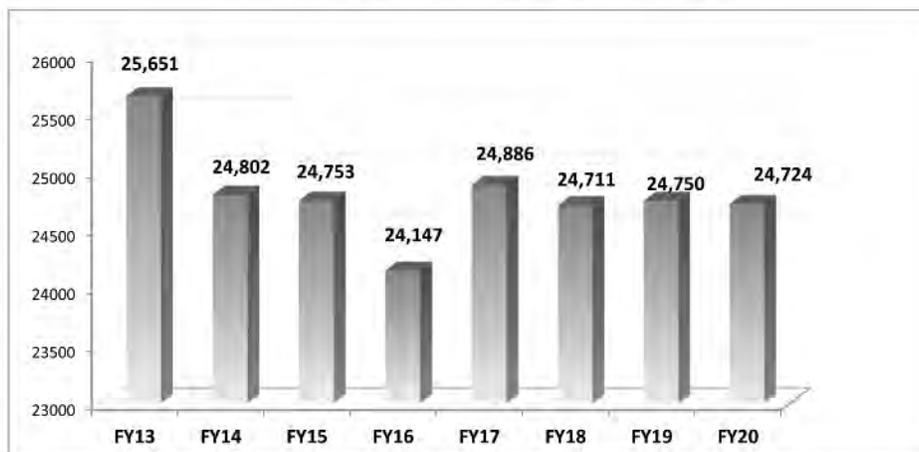
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School Proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Budget, 2019–2020 School Year *(continued)*

ENROLLMENT TRENDS

**FOUNDATION ENROLLMENT FY 2013 - 2020
(October 1 Headcounts)**



**TOTAL DISTRICT SCHOOL ATTENDING CHILDREN FY 2013 - 2020
(October 1 Headcounts, Grades 1 -12)**





ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
PETERSHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2019
7:30 PM
PETERSHAM TOWN HALL

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:

All registered residents are encouraged to attend Petersham Town Meeting. If you are not a registered voter in the Town of Petersham, you must receive permission from the 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.

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