

## Town of Petersham, Massachusetts

## Report of the Petersham Advisory Finance Committee FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

## Selectboard Warrants for Special & Annual Town Meeting FOR JUNE 21, 2021



This Report is dedicated to the Petersham community. During this past year, as the world grappled with a major public health emergency, dedicated work by town staff, committees, volunteers, and residents allowed for town business to proceed and for those in need to receive attention. Working together with respect, awareness, and precautions by Petersham residents during this past year helped create a safe environment as the pandemic took its toll across the Commonwealth and the world. Now, we look to the future and carry on.

#### IN GRATITUDE

#### Fredrick Marsh

Fredrik "Rick" Marsh served the town in a variety of capacities — including as a multi-term Selectman; member of the Board of Assessors; past and current member of a number of Town committees; member of the Petersham American Legion Post No. 415, monitor at the town's Transfer Station, organizer of the annual Petersham 4th of July Parade, and a faithful friend to lost and needy cats, among other roles. The community learned of Rick's unexpected passing on January 7, 2021 after a brief illness. Rick is missed in Petersham and we are grateful for his service to the community.



#### John Baker

John Baker served on the Petersham Conservation Commission for twenty years, first being appointed in 2002. John was a highly respected professor of biology at Clark University in Worcester and brought a vast depth of knowledge and a generous spirit to his teaching and to his service to the town. It was hoped this report would be published in time for John to read of his thanks from the community; John died on June 4, 2021, after a long battle with cancer. He is missed by his fellow Petersham Conservation Commission members, friends, and residents, and by legions of students.



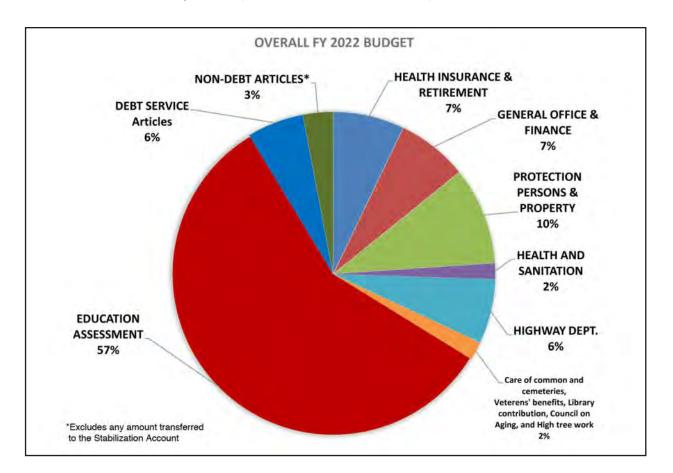
#### ON THE COVER

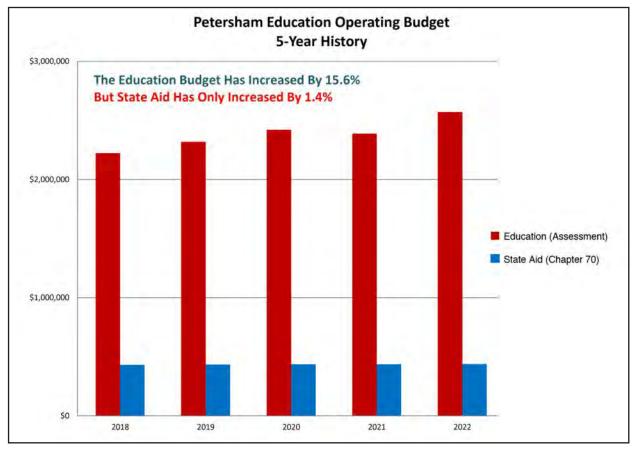
#### **Town-wide Broadband Network Project**

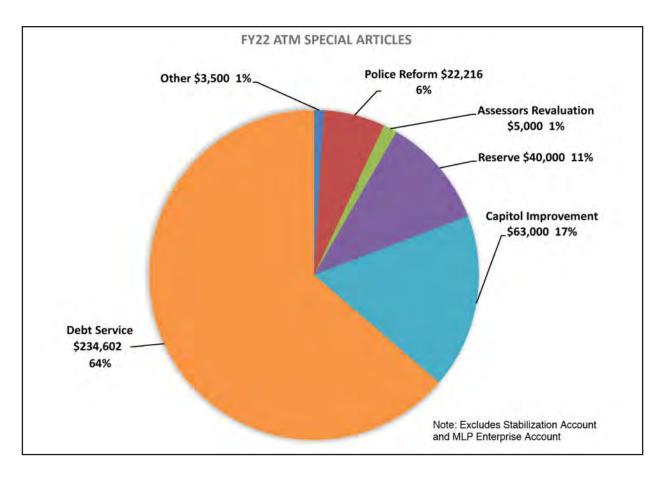
In Spring of 2021, the community began to wind down its decade long effort at implementing town-wide, stable, high speed broadband service. The town's provider Matrix Design Group entered into the final phase of construction and customer connections in late Spring. Working with a combination of local and State funding, Matrix and Petersham built a network that covers 99% of the town and by June 2021 had well over 400 subscribers. Going into Fiscal Year 2022, the project will fully switch over from construction phase to regular operations with service provided by Matrix and local oversight continued by Petersham's Broadband Municipal Light Plant Board. New customers continue to subscribe to the network on a regular basis.

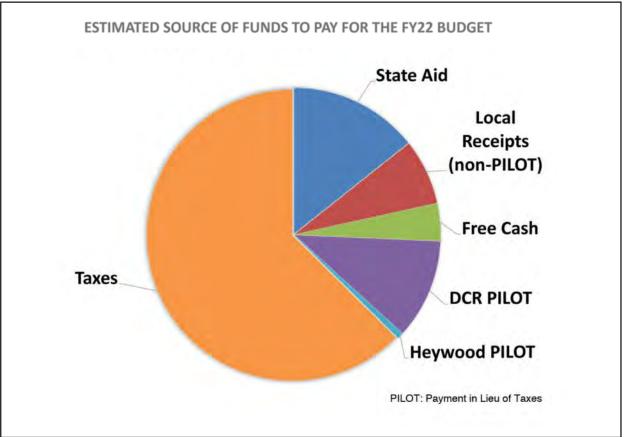


## Financial Charts Prepared by the Petersham Advisory Finance Committee











## TOWN OF PETERSHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

## Budget Report of the Petersham Advisory Finance Committee FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

Selectboard Warrants for Special & Annual Town Meeting FOR JUNE 21, 2021

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## Town of Petersham Annual Town Meeting ~ June 21, 2021

Report to the Voters from the Advisory Finance Committee Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022)

Dear Voters, Please read this Report prior to the Special & Annual Town Meetings at Petersham Town Hall on **Monday, June 21, 2021 at 7:00** 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 12–17) and the Special Articles (shown on Report page 18) is the TOTAL PETERSHAM BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 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*, Richard Cavanaugh, *Chair* Mark Bishop, *Vice Chair* Sandra Page Jim Dowd

#### SUMMARY TOTAL PETERSHAM BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

TOWN EXPENSES:		FY2022 AFC Recommended
Selectboard's Budget - Appropriation	pp. 12–17	\$1,514,373
Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District - Appropriation	pp. 17 & pp. 34–35	862,683
Montachusett Regional Tech School District - Appropriation	pp. 17 & pp. 36–37	61,907
Petersham Center School - Appropriation	рр. 17 & рр. 38	1,645,350
TOTAL GENERAL BUDGET		4,084,313
TOTAL SPECIAL ARTICLES		438,721
TOTAL PETERSHAM BUDGET		\$4,523,034
TOWN REVENUE: *Massachusetts State Aid - Includes Chapter 70 Reimburse	ment of \$437,533	\$647,735
Less: School Choice Outgoing	ment or <b>\$437,333</b>	(15,000)
Estimated Local Receipts		(13,000) 857,029
Stabilization Fund		-
Free Cash		186,881
Overlay Excess		_
Specified Funds		
Prop. 2-1/2 Levy Limit \$2,927,331 * Tax Levy	100.00% <b>\$2,927,331</b>	
Debt Exclusion - Petersham Center School	106,108	
Debt Exclusion - Ralph C. Mahar RSD	19,777	
Debt Exclusion - Nichewaug Abatement	39,148	
Debt Exclusion - Broadband	40,500	
Total Tax Levy with Debt Exclusion		3,132,864
Less: Overlay Reserve		(50,000)
TOTAL POTENTIAL REV	ENUE AT THE LEVY LIMIT	\$4,759,508
AVAILAE	BLE TAX LEVY NOT USED	\$236,474

## 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 Estimated Cherry Sheet

	FY2022	FY2021	FY2020
Education			
Chapter 70	437,533	435,523	435,523
State Fiscal Stabilization Fund	-	-	-
School Transportation	-	-	-
School Lunch	-	-	-
Sub-Total Education Items	437,533	435,523	435,523
Change from last yr>	0.5%	0.0%	0.6%
General Government			
Lottery	-	-	-
General Aid/Supplemental Lottery	-	-	-
Unrestricted General Government Aid	125,997	121,736	121,736
Annual Formula Local Aid	-	-	-
Room Tax Increase	-	-	-
Highway Fund	-	-	-
Veterans' Benefits	438	1,535	3,830
Exemptions: Vets, Blind & Surviving Spouse, Elderly	13,577	7,306	8,258
State Owned Land	67,809	62,697	58,372
Public Libraries	3,724	3,734	2,719
Sub-Total General Government	211,545	197,008	194,915
Change from last yr>	7.4%	1.1%	3.6%
Total Estimated Cherry Sheet Receipts	649,078	632,531	630,438
Net Charges	(1,343)	(1,336)	(2,031
Total State Aid	647,735	631,195	628,407
Change from last yr>	2.6%	0.4%	1.5%
School Choice Sending	(15,000)	(15,000)	(78,000
School Choice Incoming	360,068	360,068	321,035
Local Receipts Other Department Revenue			
	ESTIMATED	ESTIMATED	ACTUAL
Motor Vehicle Excise	226,434	226,434	226,262
Penalties & Interest on Taxes & Excise	37,791	37,791	37,791
Payments in Lieu of Taxes - DCR	500,028	500,028	500,027
Payments in Lieu of Taxes - Heywood	30,000	30,000	30,000
Fees	292	292	292
Rentals	1,000	1,000	1,000
Other Department Revenue (including Transfer Station Fees)	36,416	36,416	36,416
Licenses & Permits	14,080	14,080	14,080
Fines & Forfeits	7,940	7,940	7,940
Investment Income	3,048	3,048	3,048
Misc. Non recurring	-	-	-
Total Local Receipts	857,029	857,029	856,856
Change from last yr>	0.0%	0.0%	8.1%

## **Report by the Petersham Advisory Finance Committee**

For Annual Town Meeting on June 21, 2021 / For Fiscal Year 2022

#### Summary

The Fiscal Year 2022 budget prepared for your consideration at this Annual Town Meeting represents an increase in the Total Petersham Budget of approximately \$410,235 – nearly a 10% increase in the budget from last year. Last year's budget represented 4.9% drop from the prior year as the town anticipated potential lower revenues resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Advisory Finance Committee (AFC) would like to thank our town employees, the Selectboard, and members of other town boards for their efforts in keeping their expenses down last year. As a result, there is more Free Cash available this year than in most to address this increase. As set forth below, you will see that the AFC is recommending the use of Free Cash for capital improvements postponed due to budget uncertainty last year and to help pay down some of the town's debt.

As a new feature of its Annual Report, the AFC is including a number of charts to help visualize the sources of revenue available to the town as well as the distribution of its expenses. (See prior pages 1–2.) Of particular note is a bar graph that shows the levels in school spending over the last five years compared to the relatively minor increases the town receives in State Chapter 70 Education Aid from the Commonwealth. Special thanks go to AFC Vice-chair, Mark Bishop, for his work in preparing the illustrations.

#### The Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget

Overall, the town's general operating budget (not including Special Articles) is \$238,949 more than last year, an increase of about 6.2%, broken down as follows:

- 1. The Petersham Center School (PCS) budget request for Fiscal Year 2022 is \$1,645,350. This represents an increase of \$89,072 or a 5.7% rise in Petersham's assessment from the prior year.
- 2. The Ralph C. Mahar Regional School (Mahar) budget request for Fiscal Year 2022 is \$862,683. This represents an increase of \$70,183, an 8.9% increase in Petersham's assessment from the prior year.
- 3. The Montachusett Technical School District budget request for Fiscal Year 2022 is \$61,907. This represents an increase of \$22,870, a 58.6% rise in Petersham's assessment from the prior year, largely due to an increased enrollment of Petersham students.
- 4. The Selectboard's Budget request for Fiscal Year 2022 is \$1,514,223. This represents an increase of \$56,824, a 3.9% rise in the appropriation from the prior year.

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

The total amount requested for Special Articles is \$438,721. This represents an increase of \$171,286, a 64% increase in the appropriation from FY21. Last year's appropriation was \$209,854, a 43% drop from the prior year due to pandemic budget precautions.

Articles 21–26 pertain to ongoing debt obligations and the AFC recommends their passage.

Article 27 (Nichewaug Inn & Academy Maintenance) is for limited maintenance and repair of the property, and the AFC recommends its passage.

Article 28 (Deposit into the Cemetery Repair Fund) does not involve a tax appropriation, and the AFC recommends its passage.

Article 29 (Reserve Fund) earmarks \$40,000 for the Reserve Fund for FY2022, and the AFC recommends its passage.

**Article 30** (Police Reform Training) allots \$22,216 for police training mandated as a result of recent police reform legislation. This represents year one of a two-year commitment to comply with state law, and the AFC recommends its passage.

**Article 31** (Broadband Operations) allocates \$30,000 from broadband subscriber's fees to the Petersham Municipal Light Plant Broadband Enterprise Fund. While this does not strictly fall within the budget, the vote at town meeting is required by the Commonwealth, and the AFC recommends its passage.

**Article 32** (Board of Assessors' Full Measure and List of Real Estate and Personal Property) is for year two of a five-year commitment to comply with state law, and the AFC recommends its passage.

Article 33 (Painting the Petersham Fire Station), Article 34 (Playground at Petersham Center School), Article 35 (Archival Preservation of Town Records) are for projects that were put on hold last year due to budgetary concerns, and the AFC recommends their passage.

Article 36 (Highway Department Truck) allocates payments for a new Highway Department Truck that will be paid for over five years, and the AFC recommends its passage.

**Article 37** (Stabilization Fund) authorizes the depositing of funds into the Stabilization Fund, and the AFC recommends its passage.

**Articles 38** (Glen Valley Road Bridge Replacement Plan), **Article 39** (Glen Valley Road Bridge Replacement Temporary Easement), **Article 40** (Bylaw change), and **Article 41** (Petersham Center School Study) are not budget-related items, and the AFC has identified them as voter preference.

The AFC has identified **Article 41** (Citizen's Petition Article regarding the Petersham Friday Market) as voter preference.

> continued on next page

For Annual Town Meeting on June 21, 2021 / For Fiscal Year 2022

Free Cash available this year is set at \$232,671.

With respect to the Special Articles of the Special Town Meeting, we have recommended using \$3,856 of Free Cash to close the FY2021 Snow Removal account and \$41,934 for the Broadband 2021 Project Deficit.

For the Special Articles of the Annual Town Meeting, we have recommended using \$2,262 to pay off the what remains of the Mahar RSD Dam Repair Loan; \$40,500 toward the Fire Department Pumper Truck Loan; \$2,500 for the Nichewaug Inn and Academy Maintenance Account; \$11,000 toward the Reserve Fund; \$22,216 for Mandated Police Reform; \$5,000 for the Cyclical Reassessment of Values by the Assessors; \$15,000 for the Exterior Painting of the Fire Station; \$23,000 for New Playground Equipment at the Petersham Center School; \$5,000 for Town Clerk Archives; \$20,000 for the Highway Department's Truck with Sander & Plow, Loan, Year 1 of 5; and \$40,403 to be deposited in the Stabilization Fund.

#### Conclusion

The Fiscal Year 2022 budget offered for your consideration is intended to limit tax appropriations to provide for essential services and to meet current obligations well within the Proposition 2½ levy limit. We typically set a goal of keeping the total budget (the general budget + the special articles) approximately \$150,000 under the levy limit. Maintaining such "excess levy capacity" enables the town to deal with late-breaking revenue shortfalls. You will see a surplus at the bottom of the Report on page 5 of approximately \$236,620. The AFC also began this year evaluating other metrics suggested by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue to further measure affordability.

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.

## Summary of Town Loan Maturity Dates

Per Town Treasurer	FISCAL YEAR of Loan Maturity
SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS DEBT SERVICE SCHEDULE	
• Mahar RSD Dam Repair Project bond maturity date: First funding vote at 2016 Town Meeting for Fiscal Year 2017	2022
• Petersham Center School Building Construction Project bond maturity date: 20 year loan; begun in 2005	2025
• Mahar RSD School Building Construction Project bond maturity date: 20 year loan; begun in 2005	2025
TOWN PROJECTS DEBT SERVICE SCHEDULE	
<ul> <li>Fire Department – Quick Attack Pumper Truck bond maturity date:</li> <li>5 year loan</li> <li>Approved at Annual Town Meeting of June 2019, and with approval via a follow-up Debt Exclusion Election in August 2019.</li> </ul>	2026
<ul> <li>Highway Department – New Truck with Plow, Sander bond maturity date IF approved by voters at Annual Town Meeting of June 21, 2021</li> <li>Projected as a 5 year loan <i>if</i> voters approve Article 36 on June 21, 2021</li> </ul>	2027
<ul> <li>Nichewaug Inn &amp; Academy Project – Removal of Hazardous Materials bond maturity date:         <ul> <li>10 year loan</li> <li>Approved at Special Town Meeting of December 2016 and with approval via a follow-up Debt Exclusion Election in March 2017.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2027
<ul> <li>Town-wide Broadband Network Construction – #1 bond maturity date:         <ol> <li>year loan</li> <li>Approved at Special Town Meeting of December 2016, and with approval via a Debt Exclusion Election in March 2017.</li> <li>Note: Broadband Network Construction Loan #2 was a short term two year loan, approved at Town Meeting in 2018; closed in April 2021.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	2029

## Town of Petersham – General Budget Fiscal Year 2022

	SHEET	Requested 2022	RECOMMENDED 2022	Budget 2021	Budget 2020	Budget 2019
Moderator – Salary						
Moderator – Expenses						
Selectboard – Salaries	2	9,343	9,343	8,269	8,065	7,867
Part-time Office Assistant – Salary	2	8,100	8,100	14,350	14,350	5,697
Part-time Office Floating Secretary – Salary	2	-	-	-	-	3,864
Expenses	2	4,250	4,250	4,280	4,280	4,284
Legal Fees	3	7,000	7,000	8,000	7,000	7,000
Medicare	4	25,954	25,954	25,637	23,705	25,898
Unemployment	5	-	-	-	-	15,000
Administrative Coordinator – Salary	6	23,069	23,069	22,506	21,957	48,481
Administrative Coordinator – Overtime	7	-	-	-	-	878
Software Maintenance	8	-	-	-	-	-
Central Telephone System	9	13,500	13,500	12,500	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	19,743	19,743	18,261	17,815	17,380
Treasurer – Expenses	12	7,885	7,885	7,610	6,585	4,385
Treasurer – Account Bank Fees	13	1	1	1	1	1
Payroll Processing	14	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Town Accountant – Salary	15	22,078	22,078	21,539	21,013	20,500
Accounting Clerk – Salary	15	2,265	2,265	2,209	2,155	2,102
Accountant – Expenses	15	7,533	7,533	7,354	6,271	6,021
Printing (Town Reports, By-Laws,						
Valuation Books, Street Lists, etc.)	16	1,450	1,450	1,450	1,750	1,750
Tax Collector – Salary	17	14,816	14,816	14,454	14,101	13,757
Tax Collector – Expenses	17	18,266	18,266	18,266	18,066	18,066
Tax Collector – Account Bank Fees	18	-		1	-	-

	SHEET	Requested 2022	RECOMMENDED 2022	Budget 2021	Budget 2020	Budget 2019
Board of Assessors – Salaries	19	9,343	9,343	9,114	8,891	8,673
Assistant Assessor – Salary	19	36,471	36,471	35,581	34,713	33,866
Assessors – Expenses	19	26,971	26,971	22,112	19,910	18,892
Town Clerk – Salary	20	13,011	13,011	11,694	11,408	11,129
Town Clerk Part-time Assistant – Salary	20	720	720	702	684	667
Town Clerk – Expenses	20	2,984	2,984	2,984	2,959	4,559
Town Clerk – Software & Software Maintenance	20	2,290	2,290	1,434	1,434	1,285
Land Court Fees	21	1	1	1	1	1
Vital Statistics	22	100	100	100	100	100
Election & Registration – Salaries	23	3,700	3,700	9,500	7,000	8,000
Election & Registration – Expenses	23	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,725	1,725
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	500	500	450	505	505
Town Hall & Town Office – Expenses	28	22,460	22,460	23,896	24,076	24,076
Zoning Board of Appeals – Salaries	29	-	-	500	513	500
Zoning Board of Appeals – Expenses	29	350	350	350	460	460
Zoning Board – Consultant/Expenses	29	500	500	-	-	-
Computer Service	62	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
TOTAL GENERAL OFFICE & FINANC	E:	315,861	315,861	316,312	304,400	340,276
Change over previous year	r>>	-0.14%	-0.1%	3.9%	-10.5%	8.5%

PROTECTION OF PERSONS & PROPERTY	SHEET	Requested 2022	RECOMMENDED 2022	Budget 2021	Budget 2020	Budget 2019
Building Inspector – Salary	32	-	-	-	-	-
Building Inspector – Clerical Asst. Salary	32	3,328	3,328	3,062	2,987	2,730
Building Inspector – Contracted Expenses	32	11,371	11,371	10,966	9,766	7,714
Police Department:		I				
Chief – Salary	33	83,197	83,197	81,167	79,187	77,255
Full-time Officer – Salary	33	58,662	58,662	57,231	55,835	54,473
Full-time Officer – Overtime Wages	33	6,002	6,002	5,855	5,712	5,572
Part-time Officers – Salaries	33	53,473	53,473	50,357	49,128	47,929
Officers' Training	33	9,674	9,674	9,438	9,207	8,982
Police Dept. – Expenses	33	41,756	41,756	40,665	40,195	39,355
Fire Department:						
Chief – Salary	34	6,234	6,234	4,082	3,982	3,884
Fire Dept. Members – Salaries	34	25,910	25,910	25,278	24,855	24,443
Fire Dept. – Expenses	34	30,425	30,425	31,625	31,125	30,725
Public Safety Communications						
Radio Repair	35	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
CJIS & LEAPS Communication Systems	35	4,705	4,705	4,705	3,610	3,610
Forest Warden	36	30	30	27	26	25
Tree Warden – Salary	37	3,152	3,152	3,152	3,075	3,000
Tree Warden – Expenses	37	685	685	685	685	685
Animal Control – Salary	38	3,239	3,239	3,159	3,081	3,005
Animal Control – Expenses	38	1,925	1,925	1,925	1,425	1,425
Insurance – Property, Liability, Workers' Comp, IOD	39	85,392	85,392	85,392	83,077	81,366
Insurance – Nichewaug Inn & Academy property	39	-	-	-	5,720	5,720
Emergency Management – Salary & Expenses	40	4,444	4,444	4,410	5,516	5,483
Conservation Commission	41	0	0	-	-	-
Hearing Enforcement Officer	64	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL PROTECTION PERSONS & PROPERTY:		435,404	435,404	424,981	419,994	409,181
Change over previous year>>		2.45%	2.5%	1.2%	2.6%	8.7%

	SHEET	Requested 2022	RECOMMENDED 2022	Budget 2021	Budget 2020	Budget 2019
HEALTH AND SANITATION						
Administration and Health						
Board of Health – Salaries	42	545	545	531	517	503
Board of Health – Admin. Assistant Salary	42	7,675	7,675	7,253	7,076	6,473
Board of Health – Expenses	42	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,700
Inspector of Animals – Salary & Expenses	43	2,720	2,720	2,653	2,587	2,523
Transfer Station Operations	65	56,267	56,267	52,176	52,087	52,000
TOTAL HEALTH AND SANITATION:		69,907	69,907	65,313	64,967	64,199
Change over previous year>>		7.03%	7.0%	0.5%	1.2%	0.5%
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT						
Superintendent – Salary *	44	55,396	55,396	54,044	52,725	51,439
Highway Dept Staff – Salaries *		103,056	103,056	100,541	100,373	96,479
*(48 weeks - additional 4 weeks from MA Chapt. 90)						
Town Barn Account – Expenses	45	8,150	8,150	8,150	8,150	8,150
General Highways – Expenses	46	53,000	53,000	55,000	50,000	50,000
Snow & Ice Removal	47	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Street Lights	48	8,500	8,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
TOTAL HIGHWAY DEPT.:		288,102	288,102	285,235	278,748	273,568
Change over previous year>>		1.01%	1.0%	2.3%	1.9%	3.5%
<b>CHARITIES &amp; VETERANS BENEFITS</b>						
District Veteran Agent – District Allocation	49	3,839	3,839	3,759	3,684	3,483
Veterans – Benefits	49	10,000	10,000	10,000	9,000	9,000
TOTAL VETERANS BENEFITS:		13,839	13,839	13,759	12,684	12,483
Change over previous year>>		0.58%	0.6%	8.5%	1.6%	-2.9%

	SHEET	Requested 2022	RECOMMENDED 2022	Budget 2021	Budget 2020	Budget 2019
UNCLASSIFIED						
Library	50	9,790	9,790	9,660	9,550	9,420
Bandstand Lighting	51	250	250	250	325	325
Town Clock	52	73	73	73	73	73
County Retirement	53	188,910	188,910	174,811	155,557	151,368
Memorial Day	55	600	600	600	645	645
Care of Common	56	7,863	7,863	7,863	7,863	7,680
Interest – Includes Broadband Loan Interest	57	-	-	-	-	
Cemetery Commission – Salary	59	801	801	781	761	720
Cemetery Commission – Cemetery Care Contract	59	21,822	21,822	20,985	20,985	20,985
Cemetery Commission – Expenses	59	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,050
Healthcare Insurance – For full-time employees	60	71,041	71,041	70,141	68,813	49,120
Healthcare Insurance – For retirees	63	58,460	58,460	56,485	54,050	66,782
High Tree Work – Pruning, Removal, Planting	61	27,000	27,000	6,000	27,000	27,000
Open Space and Recreation Committee	66	550	550	50	900	
Council on Aging	67	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	
TOTAL UNCLASSIFIED:		391,260	391,260	351,799	350,622	337,168
Change over previous year>>		11.22%	11.2%	0.3%	4.0%	17.8%
TOTAL SELECTBOARD NON-EDUCATION BUDGET:	_	1,514,373	1,514,373	1,457,399	1,431,415	1,436,875
Change over previous year>>	_	3.91%	3.9%	1.8%	-0.4%	9.1%

S	HEET	Requested 2022	RECOMMENDED 2022	Budget 2021	Budget 2020	Budget 2019
EDUCATION BUDGET						
RALPH C. MAHAR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT		862,683	862,683	792,500	885,870	768,307
		8.86%	8.9%	-10.5%	15.3%	3.5%
MONTACHUSETT TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT		61,907	61,907	39,037	14,686	40,505
		58.59%	58.6%	165.8%	-63.7%	45.7%
PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL						
Regular Education and General Expense		1,492,874	1,492,874	1,542,027	1,583,010	1,554,738
Special Needs Education Expense		545,476	545,476	491,083	425,740	367,704
PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL BUDGET TOTAL		2,038,350	2,038,350	2,033,110	2,008,750	1,922,442
Less: Known Income + Choice carryover		(32,932)	(32,932)	(112,276)	(108,949)	(63,271)
Less: Incoming School Choice		(360,068)	(360,068)	(364,556)	(321,035)	(350,000)
Reserve – from Incoming School Choice*		-	-	-	(59,432)	-
PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL APPROPRIATION		1,645,350	1,645,350	1,556,278	1,519,334	1,509,171
		5.72%	5.7%	2.4%	0.7%	3.9%
TOTAL EDUCATION BUDGET APPROPRIATION:		2,569,940	2,569,940	2,387,815	2,419,890	2,317,983
GRAND TOTAL GENERAL BUDGET:		4,084,313	4,084,313	3,845,214	3,851,305	3,754,358
Grand Total General Budget -Change over previous year>>		6.22%	6.2%	-0.2%	2.6%	6.1%
ALL 3 school budgets (change over previous year)>>		7.6%	7.6%	-1.3%	8.9%	4.3%

## Town of Petersham Special Articles Fiscal Year 2021 Special Town Meeting

#### FISCAL YEAR 2021 — RECOMMENDED ARTICLES AND FUNDING SOURCES

		TOTAL APPROPRIATE Recommended	RAISE BY	From Free Cash	From Stabilization Account	From Planning Board Revolving	From Board of Health Revolving	From Tax Collector Revolving	REQUESTED
		Recommended		Cash	Account	Revolving	Revolving	Revolving	
Snow & Ice Removal 2021 Deficit	1	16,856		3,856		1,000	5,000	7,000	16,856
Broadband Project 2021 Deficit	2	41,934		41,934					41,934
TOTAL SPECIAL ARTICLES		\$58,790		\$45,790		\$1,000	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$58,790

Description	ARTICLE #		TOTAL APPROPRIATE Recommended	RAISE BY TAXATION	From Stabilization Fund	From Free Cash	From Surplus Overlay	From Broadband Enterprise	REQUESTED AMOUNT	Estimated Effect on Tax Rate*
Debt Service - Petersham Center School Construction	21	DE	106,108	106,108					106,108	0.61
Debt Service - Mahar RSD School Construction	22	DE	19,777	19,777					19,777	0.11
Debt Service - Mahar RSD Dam Repair	23		2,262			2,262			2,262	0.01
Debt Service - Nichewaug Hazardous Material Abatement	24	DE	39,148	39,148					39,148	0.22
Debt Service - Broadband Construction Make-Ready BB1	25		26,807	26,807					26,807	0.15
Debt Service - Fire Department Pumper Truck (new)	26	DE	40,500			40,500			40,500	0.23
Nichewaug Inn and Academy Maintenance Account	27		2,500			2,500			2,500	0.01
Reserve Fund	29		40,000	29,000		11,000			40,000	0.23
Police Department - State Mandated Police Reform	30		22,216			22,216			22,216	0.13
Broadband MLP Enterprise Fund	31		30,000					30,000	30,000	
Assessors - Cyclical Reassessment of Values, Yr. 2 of 5	32		5,000			5,000			5,000	0.03
Fire Department – Fire Station Exterior Painting	33		15,000			15,000			15,000	0.09
Center School - New Playground Equipment	34		23,000			23,000			23,000	0.13
Town Clerk Archives	35		5,000			5,000			5,000	0.03
Highway Dept Truck w/ Sander & Plow, Year 1 of 5 (\$98,800)	36		20,000			20,000			20,000	0.14
Stabilization Fund	37		40,403			40,403			40,403	0.23
Citizen's Petition - Farmers Market Performances	42		1,000	1,000					1,000	0.01
TOTAL SPECIAL ARTICLES			\$438,721	\$221,840	·	\$186,881		\$30,000	\$438,721	
Proposed General Total Budget			\$4,084,313						\$4,084,313	
GRAND TOTAL BUDGET			\$4,523,034						\$4,523,034	

\*Using the Assessor's 2021 Recap Sheet, the total value of all (taxable) property in Petersham is \$174,212,611. A \$100,000 line item in the budget requires that \$0.574/1000 be *somehow* raised to cover it. There is no predictable formula for converting this to a property tax rate.

The \$0.574 estimate assumes that the total value of taxable property will be exactly the same In 2022 as it was in 2021. Line items are not necessarily funded, partially or in total, through taxation. Based on the Assessor's 2021 Recap Sheet, the percentage of the tax levy is about ~62% of the total budget.

# Summary of Town Appropriation for Proposed School Budgets 2021–2022 School Year

<b>TOTAL PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL</b> BUDGET ASSESSMENT FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2021–2022	
Operating Education Budget Assessment	\$ 1,207,817.
Total Building Construction Debt Assessment	\$ 106,108.
Total Proposed Appropriation at Town Meeting	\$ 1,313,925.

BUDGET ASSESSMENT FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2021–2022	
Operating Education Budget Assessment	\$ 862,684.
Total Building Construction Debt Assessment	\$ 19,777.
Total Dam Project Debt Assessment	\$ 2,262.

\$ 1,315 .
\$ 60,592.
CAL \$

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS DEBT SERVICE SCHEDULE

- Petersham Center School Building Construction Project bond maturity date: 2025
- Mahar RSD School Building Construction Project bond maturity date: 2025
- Mahar RSD Dam Project bond maturity date: 2022

### **Broadband Enterprise Account Budgets** For Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022

No. of Subscribers Using a Monthly Subscriber's Fee of \$6.99 (throughout the year)									
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2020 JULY –SEPT	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter OCT–DEC	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter JAN–MAR	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter APRIL–JUNE					
150 x \$6.99 x 3 mos.	\$ 1,610. / ACTUAL								
200									
250									
300		\$ 4,547. / ACTUAL							
325									
350									
375									
400			\$ 7,755. / ACTUAL						
410				\$ 7,510./ ACTUAL @ 6/10/2 \$ 7,700. +/- / Projected					
420									

**NOTES:** Petersham's Broadband Network requires a regular annual operating expense budget of approximately \$20,000. • Subscriber Fee Rates are set to cover operating costs via income into the town's dedicated MLP Enterprise Fund. • Known required expenses: Annual Surety Bonds required by both utilities at \$3,000/each; annual Pole Rental Fees collected by Verizon; misc. costs. It is an unknown whether these charges could increase (or decrease) over time, setting of Subscriber's Fee Rates and budgeting allows for that possibility. • The MLP Board is setting the monthly Fees as low as possible while covering annual network operating costs. • Fiscal 2021 is Year 1 of operations which were partial as the project was built out townwide and customers came on line at different timeframes. Year 2 will provide clearer information for setting of Fees.

I* Quarter         2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter         3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter         4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter         YEAR -END           YEAR ONE July 1 2020 - June 30 2021	No. of Subscribers	Using a Monthly	Subscriber's Fee of	\$6.99 (throughout	the year)	@ JUNE 10, 202
July 1 2020 - June 30 2021       [Fiscal Year 2021]         [Fiscal Year 2021]       150-420 subscribers x \$6.99 x 3 mos.       \$\$ 1,610.68 X 1,610.68       \$\$ 4,547.35 Actual       \$\$ 7,755.36 Actual       \$\$ 7,700. +/- Projected       \$\$ 21,612. +/- PROJECTE         Actual Running Qrtly. Total       \$\$ 1,610.38       \$\$ 6,158.03       \$\$ 13,913.39       ends June 30, 2021         YEAR TWO July 1 2021 - June 30 2022       \$\$ 1,610.38       \$\$ 6,158.03       \$\$ 13,913.39       ends June 30, 2021         [Fiscal Year 2022]       \$\$ 1,610.44       \$\$ 7,500. +/- 	Subscribers	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	YEAR -END TOTAL
150-420 subscribers       \$ 1,610.68       \$ 4,547.35       \$ 7,755.36       \$ 7,700. +/-       \$ 21,612. +/-         Actual       Running Qrtly. Total       \$ 1,610.38       \$ 6,158.03       \$ 13,913.39       ends June 30, 2021         YEAR TWO       July 1 2021       - June 30 2022       [Fiscal Year 2022]       [Fiscal Year 2022]       \$ 7,500. +/-       \$ 7,500. +/-       \$ 7,500. +/-       \$ 30,000.         Note: Year Two       Year Two       \$ 7,500. +/-       \$ 7,500. +/-       \$ 7,500. +/-       \$ 7,500. +/-       \$ 7,500. +/-       \$ 8,000.	July 1 2020					
x \$6.99 x 3 mos.       \$ 1,610.68 Actual       \$ 4,547.35 Actual       \$ 7,755.36 Actual       \$ 7,700. +/- Projected       \$ 21,612. +/- PROJECTE         Actual Running Qrtly. Total       \$ 1,610.38       \$ 6,158.03       \$ 13,913.39       ends June 30, 2021         YEAR TWO July 1 2021 - June 30 2022       \$       \$ 1,610.48       \$ 5,500. +/- Projected       \$ 7,500. +/- Projected	[Fiscal Year 2021]					
YEAR TWO July 1 2021 - June 30 2022     Year 2022       [Fiscal Year 2022]     410 +/- subscribers x \$6.99 x 3 mos.     \$ 7,500. +/- Projected     \$ 7,500. +/- Projected </td <td></td> <td></td> <td>· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·</td> <td>· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·</td> <td></td> <td>\$ 21,612. +/- PROJECTED</td>			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		\$ 21,612. +/- PROJECTED
July 1 2021         - June 30 2022         [Fiscal Year 2022]         410 +/- subscribers         x \$6.99 x 3 mos.         \$ 7,500. +/-         Projected         Projected         Projected         Projected         Projected         Projected         Projected         Projected         \$ 7,500. +/-         \$ 7,500. +/-         \$ 7,500. +/-         \$ 7,500. +/-         \$ 7,500. +/-         \$ 7,500. +/-         \$ 7,500. +/-         \$ 7,500. +/-         \$ 7,500. +/-         \$ 7,500. +/-         \$ 7,500. +/-         \$ 7,500. +/-         \$ 7,500. +/-         \$ 7,500. +/-         \$ 7,500. +/-         \$ 7,500. +/-         \$ 7,500. +/-         \$ 7,500. +/-         \$ 7,500. +/-	Actual Running Qrtly. Total	\$ 1,610.38	\$ 6,158.03	\$ 13,913.39	ends June 30, 2021	
x \$6.99 x 3 mos.         \$ 7,500. +/-         \$ 7,500. +/-         \$ 7,500. +/-         \$ 30,000.           Projected         Projected         Projected         Projected         PROJECTE           Note: Year Two         Year	July 1 2021 – June 30 2022					
Note: Year Two	410 +/- subscribers x \$6.99 x 3 mos.		,	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	,	\$ 30,000. PROJECTED
can include a review	Note: Year Two can include a review		- rojecteu		. rojectou	
of the Monthly Subscriber's Fee Rate	2					

> See above page one for NOTES related to this chart.

# About the Consent Calendar for Annual Town Meeting

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Town of Petersham SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT June 21, 2021

#### 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 \$16,855.20 to eliminate the Fiscal Year 2021 Snow and Ice Account deficit; or act in relation thereto.

#### - RECOMMENDED

#### **ARTICLE 2.**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, or any combination thereof, the sum of \$41,934.06 to pay for Fiscal Year 2021 project expenses for completion of construction of the town-wide broadband network so as to eliminate the Fiscal Year 2021 Broadband Network Account deficit; or act in relation thereto.

- RECOMMENDED

## Town of Petersham ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT June 21, 2021

#### 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 2022, 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 2022; 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 2022; 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 2022; 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 2022; 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 53E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 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 2022; 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 53E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> to be expended by the Treasurer **for fees due to the Fire Chief**; the Accountant shall be authorized to effect transfers from this account as required to cover vouchers submitted for payment upon verification that the disbursement requested does not exceed receipts to date; and expenditures from said Revolving Fund shall **not exceed \$4,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2022; 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 53E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, said fund to be established from receipts of said income; and expenditures shall **not exceed \$2,600.00** for Fiscal Year 2022; 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 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, said fund to be established from receipts of said income; and expenditures shall **not exceed \$10,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2022; 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 53E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 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 2022; 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 53E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 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 2022; 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 53E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 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 2022; 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 53E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 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 2022; 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 53E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 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 2022; 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 53E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 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 2022; 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 53E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 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 2022; or act in relation thereto.

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

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

- RECOMMENDED

— END OF CONSENT AGENDA —

#### ARTICLE 19.

#### Fiscal Year 2022 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 l/2 Over-ride, or any combination thereof, all necessary sums of money **to pay Town Charges and Expenses for the Fiscal Year 2022** as per budgets submitted by the several Town Departments, as approved by the Advisory Finance Committee and as listed in the budget pages of this Report, or any other amounts deemed to be sufficient; or act in relation thereto.

#### - RECOMMENDED

#### ARTICLE 20.

To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries of all Elective Town Officers as provided in Section 108 of Chapter 41, General Laws as amended: Moderator \$0; Town Treasurer \$19,743.00; Town Clerk \$13,011.00; Tax Collector \$14,816.00; Selectboard, Chair \$3,484.00, Vice Chair \$3,016.00, Clerk, \$2,840.00; Board of Assessors, Chair \$3,484.00, Clerk \$3,016.00, other member \$2,840.00; Board of Health Chair, \$221.00, other members, \$162.00 each; Trustee of Library FREE; Constables \$13.48/PER HOUR; or act in relation thereto.

- RECOMMENDED

#### ARTICLE 21.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of \$106,108.00 to pay the Fiscal Year 2022 principal and interest due on the construction note for the Petersham Center School building construction; or act in relation thereto.

- RECOMMENDED

#### ARTICLE 22.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of \$19,777.00 to pay the Fiscal Year 2022 principal and interest due on the construction note for the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District school building construction; or act in relation thereto.

- RECOMMENDED

#### ARTICLE 23.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$2,262.00** to pay the Fiscal Year 2022 interest on the note for repairs to the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District dam; 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 **\$41,020.00 to pay the principal and interest due on the note for debt incurred for asbestos and hazardous materials removal at the Nichewaug Inn & Academy building** approved by vote of the Special Town Meeting of December 12, 2016; or act in relation thereto.

#### **— RECOMMENDED**

#### ARTICLE 25.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$28,881.53 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; or act in relation thereto.

- RECOMMENDED

#### ARTICLE 26.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$40,500.00 to pay the principal and interest due on the note for debt incurred for purchase of the 2020 Quick Attack Pumper Truck for the Fire Department**; as approved by vote of the Annual Town Meeting of June 3, 2019; or act in relation thereto.

#### - RECOMMENDED

#### ARTICLE 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 **\$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 28.

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 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 **\$40,000.00 for deposit into the Reserve Fund for Fiscal Year 2022**; or act in relation thereto.

**— RECOMMENDED** 

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#### 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 **\$22,216.00 for payment for Police Department's Year One of Two Years for Police Reform training and ancillary expenses**, such training as required by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for Fiscal Year 2022; or act in relation thereto.

#### - RECOMMENDED

#### ARTICLE 31

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds the sum of **\$30,000.00** to the Petersham Municipal Light Plant Broadband Enterprise Fund for Fiscal Year 2022 town-wide broadband network operations; with said funds to be raised from Broadband Network Subscriber's Fees receipts and funds from any source derived from the activities of the Town's Municipal Light Plant Broadband Board; or act in relation thereto.

#### - RECOMMENDED

#### ARTICLE 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 **\$5,000.00 for Board of Assessors' Year Two of Five Years for the Full Measure and List of all real estate and personal property** as required by State Law; or to act in relation thereto.

#### - RECOMMENDED

#### ARTICLE 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 **\$15,000.00 for preparation and painting of the exterior of Petersham Fire Station** located at 16 East Street; 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 **\$23,000.00 for purchase and installation of new outdoor playground equipment at Petersham Center School** located at 31 Spring Street; 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 payment to purchase services for archiving and preservation of certain Town Records by the Town Clerk**; 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, for a total sum of **\$98,800.00 for payment to purchase a new Highway Department Ford 2022 F550 Truck with all-season dump body, spreader, and plow mount**; or act in relation thereto.

- RECOMMENDED

#### ARTICLE 37.

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 38.

To see if the Town will vote to accept the Right of Way Layout Plan for Glen Valley Road for implemenation of the Glen Valley Road Bridge Replacement Project; such approval pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 41, Section 81; as shown on the Plan prepared by the Town's consulting engineers CHA Engineering in conjunction with the Selectboard and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and on file in the office of the Town Clerk; and presented herein as "Exhibit 1– Glen Valley Road Bridge Project"; or act in relation thereto.

#### **— VOTER PREFERENCE**

#### ARTICLE 39.

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard **to acquire the necessary rights** of easements by purchase, gift, or eminent domain, and on such terms and conditions as the Selectboard may determine; for permanent and/or temporary access easements for public way purposes to enable the Town to undertake replacement of the temporary Glen Valley Road Bridge with a permanent Bridge; with such public way access including for the construction, alteration, installation, maintenance, improvement, repair, replacement, and/or relocation of rights of ways, guardrails, slopes, grading, rounding, construction, landscaping, and other appurtenenances and/or facilities; such layout presented herein as "Exhibit 1–Glen Valley Road Bridge Project; and to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow pursuant to any applicable statue, a sum of money to carry out the foregoing; or act in relation thereto.

#### **— VOTER PREFERENCE**

#### ARTICLE 40.

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General and Zoning Bylaws to change the name of the Board of Selectmen to the "Selectboard," by striking out, in every instance in which they appear in reference to that body, the words "Board of Selectmen" or "Selectmen" and inserting in place thereof the words "Selectboard"; and by striking out, in every instance in which they appear in reference to Board members individually, the word "Selectman" and "Selectmen" and inserting in place thereof the words "Selectboard Member" or "Selectboard Members"; and further to authorize the Town Clerk to make non-substantive, ministerial revisions to ensure that gender and numerical issues in related text is revised to properly reflect such change in title; or or act in relation thereto.

#### **— VOTER PREFERENCE**

#### ARTICLE 41.

#### **NON-BINDING RESOLUTION**

To see if the Town will vote to approve supporting an affirmative vote taken by the Petersham Center School Committee on April 14, 2021, to act on investigating withdrawal from the current Grades K–6 consolidation relationship with Orange Elementary School so as to return to independent public school status as of July 1, 2022; such feasibility investigation to include regular and timely public reporting on the financial and educational impact on the School and the Town; providing comparisons and other data that the Committee, the Town, the School community, and the public will find helpful in making such a determination; and so long as any proposed withdrawal from consolidation status does not affect the current status of Petersham as a member town of the Mahar Regional School District for Grades 7–12; or act in relation thereto.

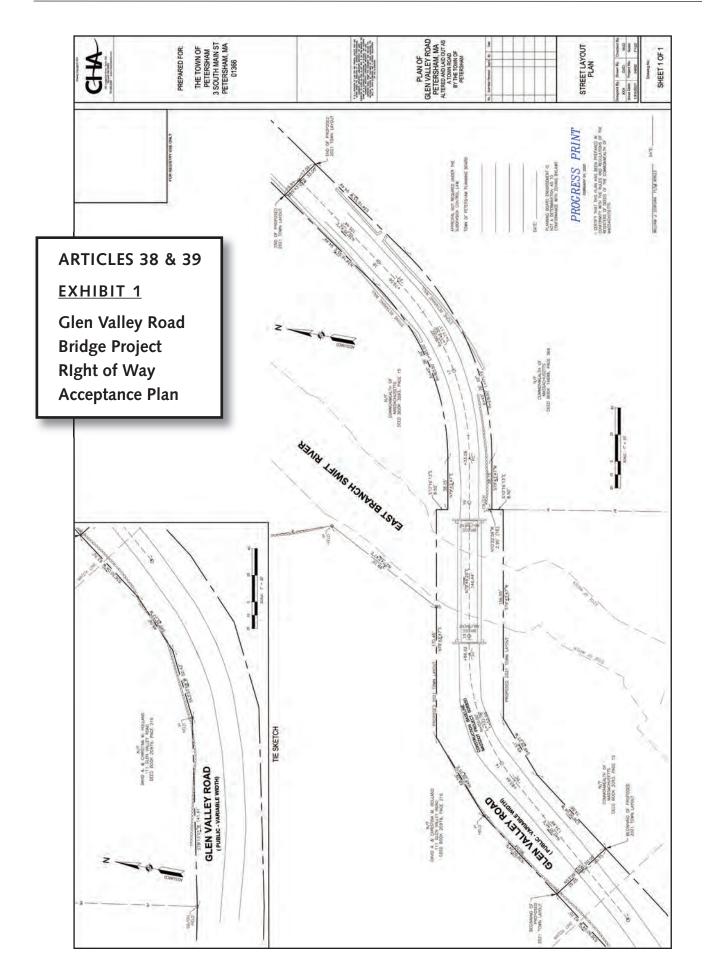
#### **— VOTER PREFERENCE**

#### 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 2021 program of up to 20 live music performances to be held on the town common; or act in relation thereto.

**— VOTER PREFERENCE** 



## Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District Proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Budget, 2021–2022 School Year

FY 2022 BUI	DGET & ASSESSI	MENTS			
	<u>Total</u>	New Salem	<u>Orange</u>	<u>Petersham</u>	<u>Wende</u>
FY 2022 Proposed Budget	14,280,349				
Less Debt	236,250				
Less Transportation	, í				
Pupil Transportation	875,400				
SpEd Transportation	500,000				
Net School Spending	12,668,699				
Less Grant Revenue	1,187,410				
Less Chapter 70 Aid	<u>5.450.340</u>				<u> </u>
Net Budget	6,030,949				
Minimum Local Contribution (MLC) required by Ed Reform	2,919,128	375,163	1,813,148	520,100	210,7
Portion of ESSER 2 offset to increase of MLC		0	<u>117,771</u>	<u>29,268</u>	<u>12,5</u>
Net MLC	2,759,526	375,163	1,695,377	490,832	198,1
Difference between MLC and Net Budget Balance	3,271,423				
					<u> </u>
Foundation Enrollment (as of 10/1/2019)	611	46	467	57	
Apportion Percentage	100.00%	7.5286%	76.4321%	9.3290%	6.710
Apportion Step 3 amount by agreement		246,294	2,500,417	305,190	219,5
Transportation Budget	1,375,400				-
Less Aid to Transportation Preliminary	435,841	70 700	710.101	07.051	
Net Transportation	939,559	70,736	718,124	87,651	63,0
Debt Payments					
Not Subject to Prop 2 1/2 (Dam)	24,250	1,826	18,535	2,262	1,6
Total Assessments, MLC plus apportionments	6,994,758	694,018	4,932,453	885,935	482,3
Excess & Deficiency	225,000	16,939	171,972	20,990	15,0
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,				
FY 2022 Assessment Not Exempt from Prop 2 1/2	6,769,758	677,079	4,760,481	864,945	467,2
Debt Payments Subject to Prop 2 1/2 (School Construction)	212,000	15,961	162,036	19,777	14,2
Exempt					
Total FY 2022 Assessment	6,981,758	693,040	4,922,517	884,723	481,4

### Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District Proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Budget, 2021–2022 School Year (continued)

RALPH C. MAHAR REGIO	NAL SCHOOL DISTRICT		
FY 2022 BUDGET &	ASSESSMENTS		
	Non-Exempt	Exempt	Total
N	- <b>I</b>	(School Constr)	
FY2022 Assessment		15,961	602.040
FY2022 Assessment	677,079	15,901	693,040
FY2021 Assessment	667,695	16,325	684,020
		10,020	001,020
Dollar Increase	9,384	(364)	9,020
Percent Increase	1.41%	-2.23%	1.32%
Oran	ae		
FY2022 Assessment	4,760,481	162,036	4,922,517
FY2021 Assessment	4,562,077	166,721	4,728,798
Dollar Increase	198,404	(4,685)	193,719
Percent Increase	4.35%	-2.81%	4.10%
	4.0070	2.0170	4.1070
Peters		10 777	004 702
FY2022 Assessment	864,945	19,777	884,723
FY2021 Assessment	793,798	18,756	812,554
Dollar Increase	71,147	1,021	72,169
Percent Increase	8.96%	5.45%	8.88%
Wend			
FY2022 Assessment	467,253	14,226	481,479
EV/2021 Accessment	404.004	12,100	407.400
FY2021 Assessment	424,294	13,199	437,493
Dollar Increase	42,959	1,027	43,986
	.2,000	1,021	.0,000
Percent Increase	10.12%	7.78%	10.05%

## Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School Proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Budget, 2021–2022 School Year

#### STUDENT ENROLLMENT

#### STUDENT ENROLLMENT AND SCHOOL ATTENDING CHILDREN COMPARISONS

FOUNDATION ENROLLMENT

SCHOOL ATTENDING CHILDREN (GR. 1-12)

	(Basis for Op	erational Apportion	oment)	(Basis for	Capital Apportionm	ent)
COMMUNITIES	10-01-19	10-01-20**	DIFF	10-01-19	10-01-20**	DIFF
ASHBURNHAM	67	70	3	1,033	1,017	(16)
ASHBY	35	37	2	397	386	(11)
ATHOL	108	113	5	1,615	1,617	2
BARRE	54	48	(6)	724	754	30
FITCHBURG	385	384	(1)	6,096	6,169	63
GARDNER	189	178	(11)	2,626	2,486	(140)
HARVARD	4	4	0	1,070	1,036	(34)
HOLDEN	83	88	5	3,350	3,263	(87)
HUBBARDSTON	51	42	(9)	562	537	(25)
LUNENBURG	82	83	1	1,706	1,680	(26)
PETERSHAM	3	5	2	130	126	(4)
PHILLIPSTON	20	18	(2)	173	158	(15
PRINCETON	28	29	1	445	430	(15
ROYALSTON	13	12	(1)	141	137	(4
STERLING	62	64	2	1,099	1,027	(72
TEMPLETON	88	89	1	989	962	(27
WESTMINSTER	68	-81	13	1,227	1,239	12
WINCHENDON	130	116	(14)	1,448	1,421	(27
	1,470	1,461	(9)	24,831	24,435	(396
TOTAL OUT-OF-DISTRICT TOTAL ENROLLMENT	22 1,492	17	(5) (14)			

				FISCAL YEA	R 2022						
			(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)				
	FY2022		REQUIRED	LESS	TRANSPORT/			PROPOSED	FY2021	APPROVED	
OMMUNITES	FOUNDATION	BUDGET	MINIMUM	ESSER II ALLOCATION	OPERATING AGSE55	CAPITAL ASSESS	BONDS	ASSESSMENT FY:2022	ENROLEMENT	ASSESSMENT FY2021	CHANGE FY'21 ~ FY'22
3000 400 111 0		120021									
Ashbumham	70	1,238,161	563,138	(26,344)	41,688	10,613	0	509,095	67	568,914	20,181
Ashby	37	654,457	387,730	(18,138)	22,035	4,028	0	205,655	35	374,257	21,398
Athol	113	1,995,746	326,978	(15,296)	67,298	16,875	0	395,851	108	359,829	38,022
Barre	48	849,025	344,376		28,586	7,869	0	300,631	54	407,609	(26,678)
Fitchburg	384	6,792,196	1,661,094		228,688	64,274	0	1,954,057	385	1,936,808	17,249
Gardner	178	3, 148, 467	1,063,063	(7,495)	108,007	25,944	0	1.187.514	189	1,183,237	4,281
Harvard	4	70,752	58,370	(1,389)	2,382	10,812	0	70,175	4	71,735	(1,580)
Holden	88	1,556,545	010,528	(43,016)	52,408	34,052	o	962,972	83	904,915	58,057
Hubbardston	42	742,897	455,790		25,013	6,604	o	456,407	61	555,845	(69,438)
Lunenburg	83	1,408,105	671,244	(40,758)	49,430	17,532	0	697,440	82	676,598	20,860
Petersham	5	65,440	80,442	(2,828)	2,078	1,315	٥	61,907	3	38,656	23,251
Phillipston	18	316,364	198,655	(9,293)	10,720	1,649	٥	201,731	20	199,547	2,184
Princeton	29	512,952	423,186	(19,797)	17,271	4,487	0	425,147	28	418,449	6,698
Royalston	12	212,250	78,481	(2,696)	7,147	1,430	0	64,161	13	83,696	265
Sterling	64	1,132,033	033,927	(43,690)	38,115	10,718	n	939,009	62	877,674	61,395
Templeton	89	1,574,233	603,992	(28,255)	53,003	10,039	٥	638,769	68	608,119	32,661
Westminster	81	1,432,729	800,094	(37,429)	48,239	12,030	o	623,634	68	682,123	141,711
	116	2,051,610	700,050		69,083	14,829	0	783,962	130	836,655	(52,693)
Winchendon										10,982,766	

## Petersham Center School Proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Budget, 2021–2022 School Year

	Adopted <u>FY21</u>	Assessmen <u>FY22</u>
FY Proposed Budget	2,033,110	2,038,350
Less Grant Revenue (Circuit Breaker, 240)	40,000	58,000
Less School Choice Revenue	436,832	300,000
Less Chapter 70 Aid	437,533	437,533
FY22: Less any Schoolk Choice Carryover from FY21 FY22: Less Any Additional Grant Revenue (non-Covid) FY22: Less any Covid Grant funds at year end FY21	N/A N/A N/A	35,000 0 0
Net Budget	1,118,385	1,207,817
Minimum Local Contribution (MLC) required by Ed Reform	648,211	585,991
Difference between MLC and Net Budget Balance	470,174	621,826
Debt Payments Not Subject to Prop 2 1/2 (Dam)	<u>0</u> _	<u>0</u>
Total Assessments, MLC plus apportionments	1,118,385	1,207,817
Debt Payments Subject to Prop 2 1/2 (School Construction)	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total FY Assessment	1,118,385	1,207,817
PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL BUDGET & ASSESSMENTS		
FY 2022 Assessment		1,207,817
FY 2021 Assessment	1,118,385	
FY 2020 Assessment	1,083,811	
Dollar Increase	34,574	89,432
Percent Increase	3.19%	8.00%



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING PETERSHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

## MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2021 7:00 pm PETERSHAM TOWN HALL

The Special Town Meeting begins at 7:00 PM

The Annual Town Meeting immediately follows the Special Town Meeting.

Please attend to vote on your annual Town Budget. Interior and exterior seating will be available.



Dear Reader:

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 Post Office Box 486 Petersham, Massachusetts 01366-0486