



TOWN OF PETERSHAM
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Diana L. Cooley

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June 12, 2023

The meeting was posted for June 5, 2023. Only 85 voters were in attendance. 105 was required for the quorum, therefore, the meeting was continued until June 12, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Nonvoters on the floor were Michele Tontodonato, Director of Finance at Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District, and Arron O'Connor, Principal of Petersham Center School.

A moment of silence was held for those that have passed.

On the motion of the Moderator the following motion was made and voted:

The town voted to dispense with the reading of the warrant and of the constable's return of service of that warrant and that the moderator not be required to read warrant articles verbatim, but may refer to them by number and/or subject matter. 2. That the Moderator, pursuant to GL c. 39/15 be allowed to declare a 2/3s vote rather than taking a standing count.

At the Annual Town Meeting, at which a quorum was present, I certify that the following votes were taken:

Article 1: The Town voted receive the reports from Town Officers and Committees. Nancy Allen – Board of Selectmen and Richard Cavanaugh – Advisory Finance Committee.

The Town voted consent articles 2 – 18 as one vote. All were passed unanimously.

Article 2: The Town voted to authorize the Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements during Fiscal Year 2024, as permitted by Massachusetts General Laws (MGL), Chapter 44, Section 53F.

Article 3: The Town voted 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 2024.

Article 4: The Town voted 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 2024.

Article 5: The Town voted 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 2024.

Article 6: The Town voted 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 2024.

- Article 7: The Town voted 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 2024.
- Article 8: The Town voted to re-authorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ to be expended by the Treasurer for fees due to the Fire Chief; the Accountant shall be authorized to effect transfers from this account as required to cover vouchers submitted for payment upon verification that the disbursement requested does not exceed receipts to date; and expenditures from said Revolving Fund shall not exceed \$4,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2024.
- Article 9: The Town voted 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 2024.
- Article 10: The Town voted 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 2024.
- Article 11: The Town voted 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 2024.
- Article 12: The Town voted 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 2024.
- Article 13: The Town voted 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 2024.

Article 14: The Town voted 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 2024.

Article 15: The Town voted 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 2024.

Article 16: The Town voted 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 2024.

Article 17: The Town voted 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 2024.

Article 18: The Town voted to accept and expend Chapter 90 Funds from the State for the purpose of local road work projects, said expenditures to be 100% reimbursed by the State.

Article 19: The Town voted to raise and appropriate the following budgets for the Fiscal Year 2024 as summarized below:

Town General Office & Finance:	\$	349,440.00
Total Protection of Persons & Property:	\$	485,458.00
Total Health and Sanitation:	\$	77,734.00
Total Highway Department:	\$	321,763.00
Total Charities and Veterans Benefits:	\$	13,816.00
Total Unclassified	\$	420,220.00
<i>GRAND TOTAL of:</i>	\$	<u>1,668,431.00</u>

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$961,242.00 for the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District Fiscal Year 2024 budget.

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$130,375.00 for the Montachusett Regional Vocational School District Fiscal Year 2024 budget.

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,854,216.00 for the Petersham Center School Fiscal Year 2024 budget.

- Article 20: The voted 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 \$20,743.00; Town Clerk \$15,600.00; Tax Collector \$15,600.00; Selectboard, Chair, \$3,662.00; Vice Chair, \$3172.00, Clerk \$2,986.00 each; Board of Assessors, Chair, \$3,662.00, Clerk, \$3,172.00, other member, \$2,986.00; Board of Health Chair, \$233.00, other members, \$172.00 each; Trustee of Library FREE; Constables \$14.21/per hour.
- Article 21: The Town voted to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$103,485.00 to pay the Fiscal Year 2024 principal and interest due on the construction note for the Petersham Center School building construction.
- Article 22: The Town voted to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$19,275.00 to pay the Fiscal Year 2024 principal and interest due on the construction note for the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District school building construction.
- Article 23: The Town voted raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 38,100.00 and take \$7,045.00 from Free Cash for a total sum of \$45,145.00 to pay the Fiscal Year 2024 principal and interest due on the note for asbestos and hazardous materials removal at the Nichewaug Inn & Academy building as previously approved by vote of Special Town Meeting of December 12, 2016.
- Article 24: The Town voted to take the sum of \$10,000.00 from the Municipal Light Plant Broadband Enterprise Fund, and take the sum of \$20,919.00 from Free Cash for a total sum of \$30,919.00 to pay the Fiscal Year 2024 principal and interest due on the note for debt incurred for project expenses for completion of the town-wide broadband network project as previously approved by vote of Special Town Meeting of December 12, 2016.
- Article 25: The Town voted to take the sum of \$38,700.00 from Free Cash to pay the Fiscal Year 2024 principal and interest due on the note for debt incurred for purchase of the 2020 Quick Attack Pumper Truck for the Fire Department; as previously approved by vote of the Annual Town Meeting of June 3, 2019.
- Article 26: The Town voted to take the sum of \$88,311.00 from Free Cash to pay the Fiscal Year 2024 principal and interest due on the note for asbestos and hazardous materials removal at the Nichewaug Inn & Academy building as previously approved by vote of Special Town Meeting of June 6, 2022.
- Article 27: The Town voted to take the sum of \$5,000.00 from Free Cash for the Board of Assessors to contract for services to execute Year Four of Five of the Full Measure and List of all real estate and personal property as required by State Law.

- Article 28: The Town voted to take the sum of \$3,000.00 from the Board of Health Revolving Fund; to serve as the funding match required by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs Fiscal Year 2024 Planning Assistance Grant for the Open Space and Recreation Committee to update the Town of Petersham Open Space and Recreation Plan.
- Article 29: The Town voted to borrow \$100,000.00 for payment to purchase two new and equipped 2023 Police Department Cruisers; with said borrowing of \$100,000.00 to be contingent upon the vote of the Town at an election to approve a Proposition 2 1/2 Debt Exclusion under General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C(k) for such borrowing, for the purpose of purchase of the two Police Cruisers; and authorize the Selectboard to take all actions and execute all instruments necessary to effect said purchase; and that the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, be authorized to issue bonds or notes of the Town for such borrowing; and provided, that any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.
- Article 30: The Town voted to take the sum of \$5,000.00 from Free Cash; take the sum of \$4,000.00 from the Board of Health Revolving Fund; and take the sum of \$1,000.00 from the from the Planning Board Revolving Fund; for a total sum of \$10,000.00 for payment to purchase services for archiving and preservation of certain Town Records by the Town Clerk.
- Article 31: The Town voted to take the sum of \$10,000.00 from Free Cash for payment to purchase services for painting and general repairs of exteriors of the Petersham Town Hall and Town Office Building.
- Article 32: The Town voted to take from Free Cash the sum of \$30,000.00 for deposit into the Reserve Fund for Fiscal Year 2024.
- Article 33: The Town voted raise & appropriate the sum of \$1,800.00 for six Petersham Brass Band concerts at \$300.00 per concert, to be held during the summer.
- Article 34: The Town voted 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.
- Article 35: The Town voted to appropriate the sum of \$30,000 to the Petersham Municipal Light Plant Broadband Enterprise Fund for Fiscal Year 2024 for town-wide broadband network operations; with said funds to be raised from Broadband Network Subscriber's Fees receipts.
- Article 36: The Town voted to raise & appropriate the sum of \$1,321.00 and take the sum of \$65,920.00 from Free Cash for a total sum \$67,241.00 for deposit into the Stabilization Account. 2/3 vote needed – 9 opposed Motion Passes
- Article 37: The Town voted for a Local Option regarding Personal Property Tax Exemption(s) of any Personal Property Accounts/Values/Assessments that are under \$5,000.00 will be exempt from Personal Property Tax Bills to the Town of Petersham effective in Fiscal Year 2024.

- Article 38: The Town voted to approve the establishment of a Capital Stabilization Fund according to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 16 G1/2, for the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District; the funding source for this Capital Stabilization Fund shall only be from the Mahar Regional School District Certified Excess & Deficiency Fund.
- Article 39: The Town voted to approve the establishment of a Special Education Stabilization Fund according to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 218, Section 24 of the Acts of 2016 for the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District; the funding source for this Special Education Stabilization Fund shall only be from the Mahar Regional School District Medicaid Fund.
- Article 40: The Town voted to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$1,500.00 to support the Petersham Friday Market and its 2023 program of up to 20 music performances — and to provide no-cost fresh produce to families in need — to be held on the town common,
- Article 41: Article was defeated
- Article 42: The Town voted to approve nighttime lighting of the flag of the United States on the Town Common by Patriot Day, 9/11/2023, and accept gifts towards the lighting equipment and installation. This article passed 53 in favor and 50 opposed

This meeting was adjourned at 10:09 pm.

This is a True Copy Attest.

Diana L. Cooley, Town Clerk