



TOWN OF PETERSHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

**Report of the Petersham Advisory Finance Committee
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024**

**Selectboard Warrants for Special & Annual Town Meeting
FOR JUNE 5, 2023**



IN HONOR OF TWO DEDICATED EDUCATORS AND FRIENDS OF PETERSHAM

Beloved Petersham Center School teacher **Linda Kirousis** passed too soon at age 80 on January 14, 2023. After earning her bachelor and master degrees in education followed by her early teaching career, Linda and her husband Chuck settled in Petersham in 1968 where they raised their family. With a commitment to equitable education they opened Brandon at Petersham, a residential school community for boys located on North Main Street and which ran for a decade with alums known today as “Brandontonians.” As one alum wrote, “She was an amazing women!! Warm hugs smiles and great conversations!” In 1979, Linda returned to public school teaching and was the much-loved second grade teacher at the Center School for twenty-five years, retiring in 2004. A generation of parents were thrilled that Mrs. Kirousis was their childrens’ teacher. She invested love and energy into all her students at all times, including celebrating past students’ achievements with postcards long after their moving up from second grade. With her dedication, enthusiasm, and ready smile, Linda made a strong impact on the Petersham community including serving as a Trustee of the Petersham Memorial Library and as a volunteer at many community events.



Ornithologist, educator, and conservationist, **James Baird** passed on January 25, 2023, just days before his 98th birthday. After college, serving in the U.S. Marines during WWII, and starting a family, in 1961, Jim joined Massachusetts Audubon Society as Director of Natural History Services. Among many activities including inspiring generations of fellow staff members, Jim initiated one of the first ecotravel programs in the country; pioneered the Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas – the first statewide atlas in North America; influenced the formulation of Mass. wetland protection legislation, which became the model for federal legislation. Jim was a leader in MassAudubon’s creation of the Programme for Belize which today protects more than 260,000 acres of tropical forest habitat. Jim and his wife Carol moved to Petersham in the 1980s where they took meticulous care of one the town’s oldest homes. Among local roles, Jim served for years on the Petersham Conservation Commission; as passionate, forward thinking Board President of the Petersham Historical Society and Petersham Craft Center; and was a supporter and advisor of the Memorial Library, and the regions’ Mount Grace Land Trust and East Quabbin Land Trust.



ON THE COVER

Petersham Center School Playground

The Center School Playground saw a significant make over in Summer 2022.

Spearheaded by the School community and local volunteers. the project was supported by approval of funds from Town Meeting voters, school fundraisers, private donations, and American Rescue Plan Act funds. With the budget very much in mind, the equipment was installed as a ‘community build project’ with the help of School staff, the town Highway Dept., and volunteers, and was ready in time for the new Fall 2022 school year.

The playground is a place of joy, adventure, good health, and camaraderie for students during the school day and is available for all visitors after hours and on weekends.

Currently in the development phase, a hoped for next project of the School community is creation of a playground pavillion to serve as an outdoor learning classroom and as a shady place of respite as little ones enjoy life on the playground.

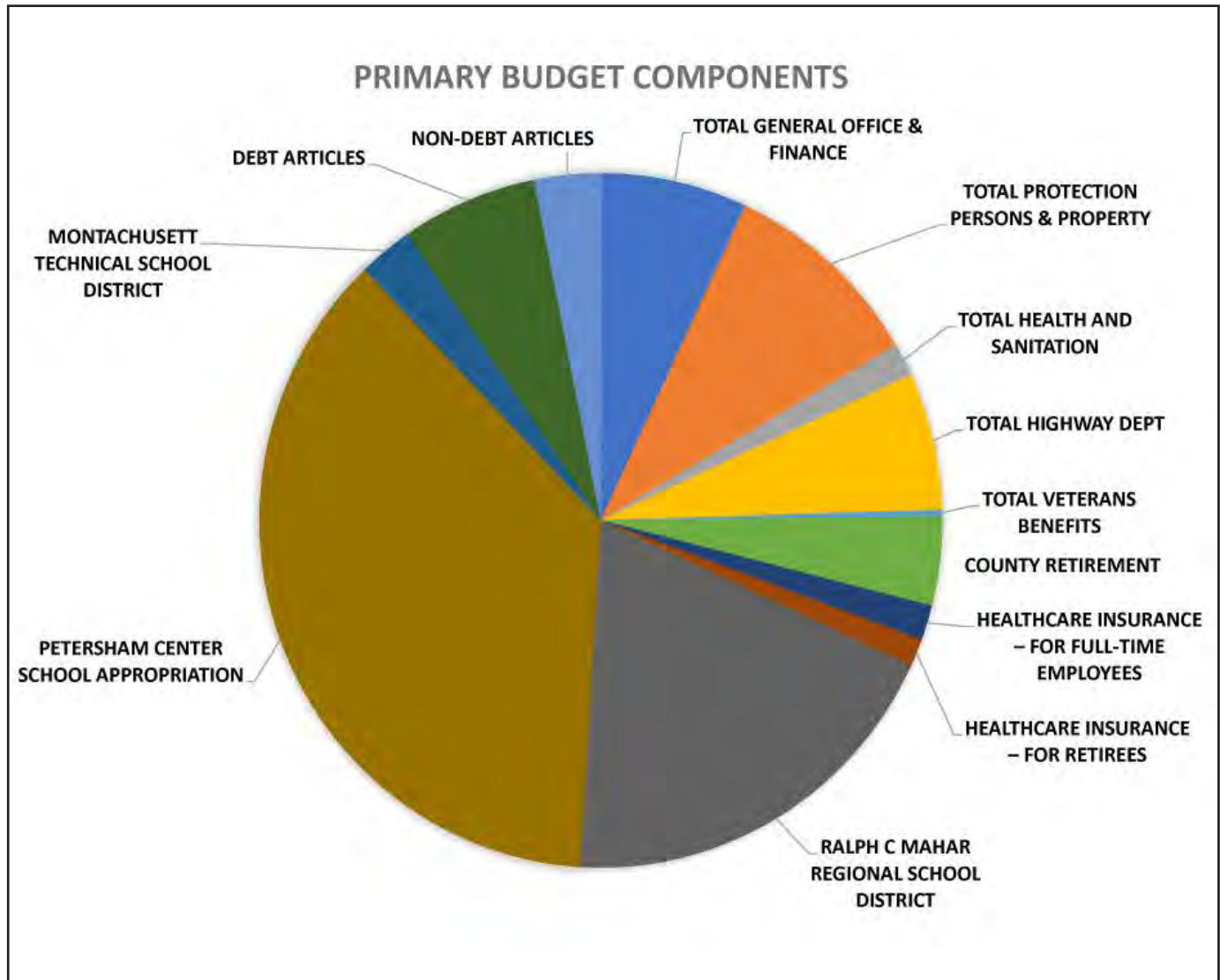


Managed as a “community build project” the new playground was installed with oversight by the contractor with the School Principal leading parents and volunteers.

Financial Charts

Prepared by the Petersham Advisory Finance Committee

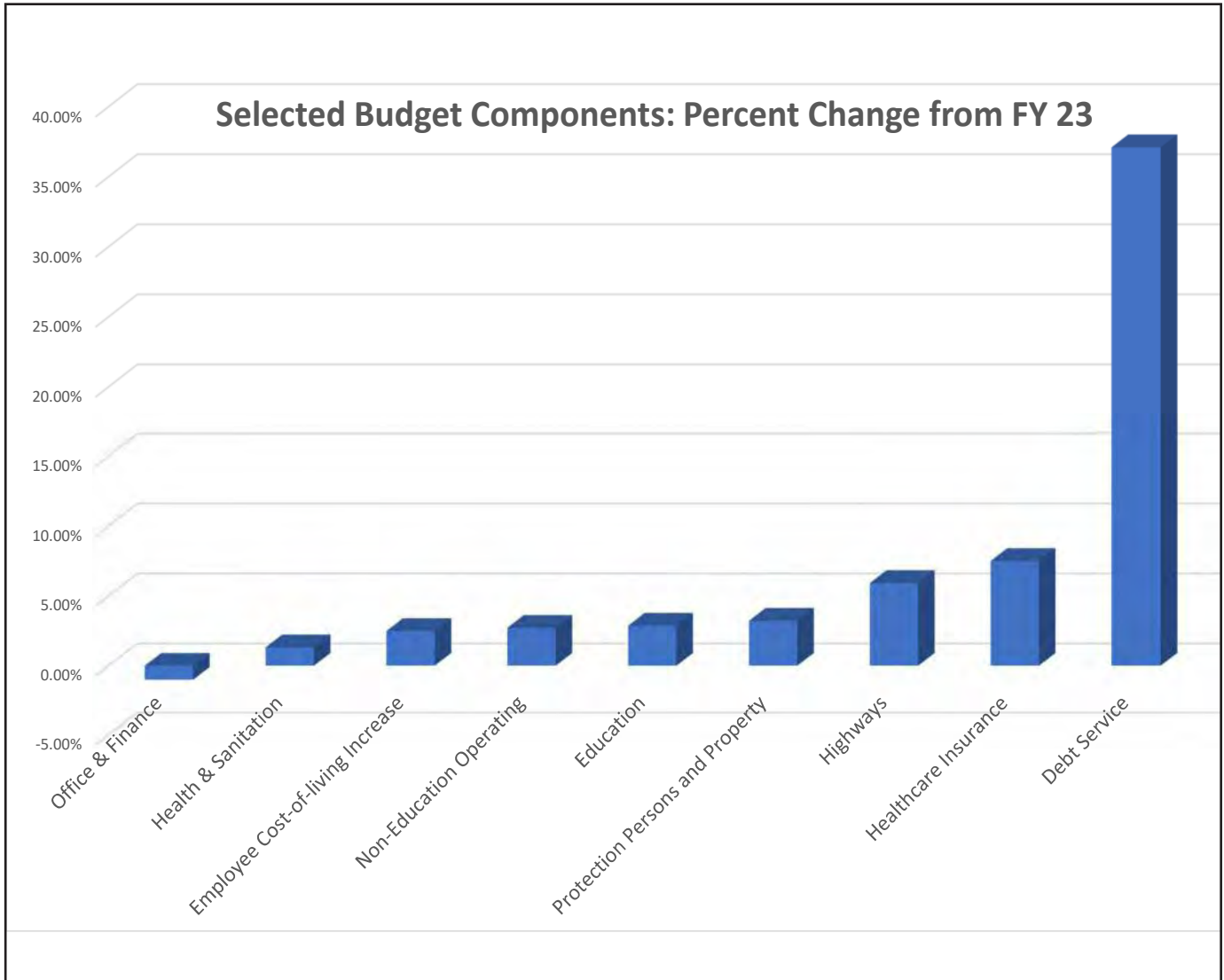
Petersham Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Budget by Major Budget Categories



Financial Charts

Prepared by the Petersham Advisory Finance Committee

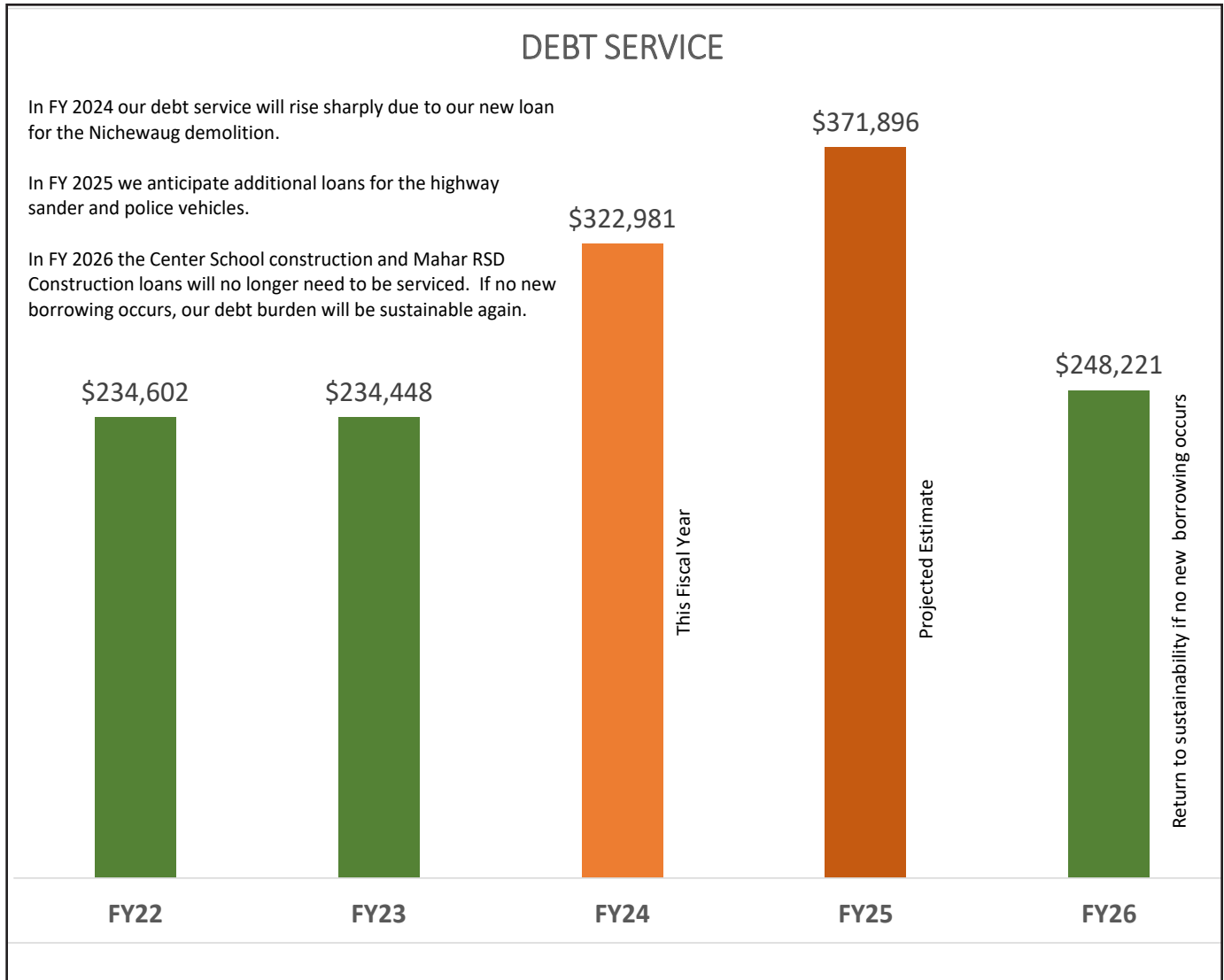
Percent Change of Selected Budgets from Fiscal Year 2023 to Fiscal Year 2024



Financial Charts

Prepared by the Petersham Advisory Finance Committee

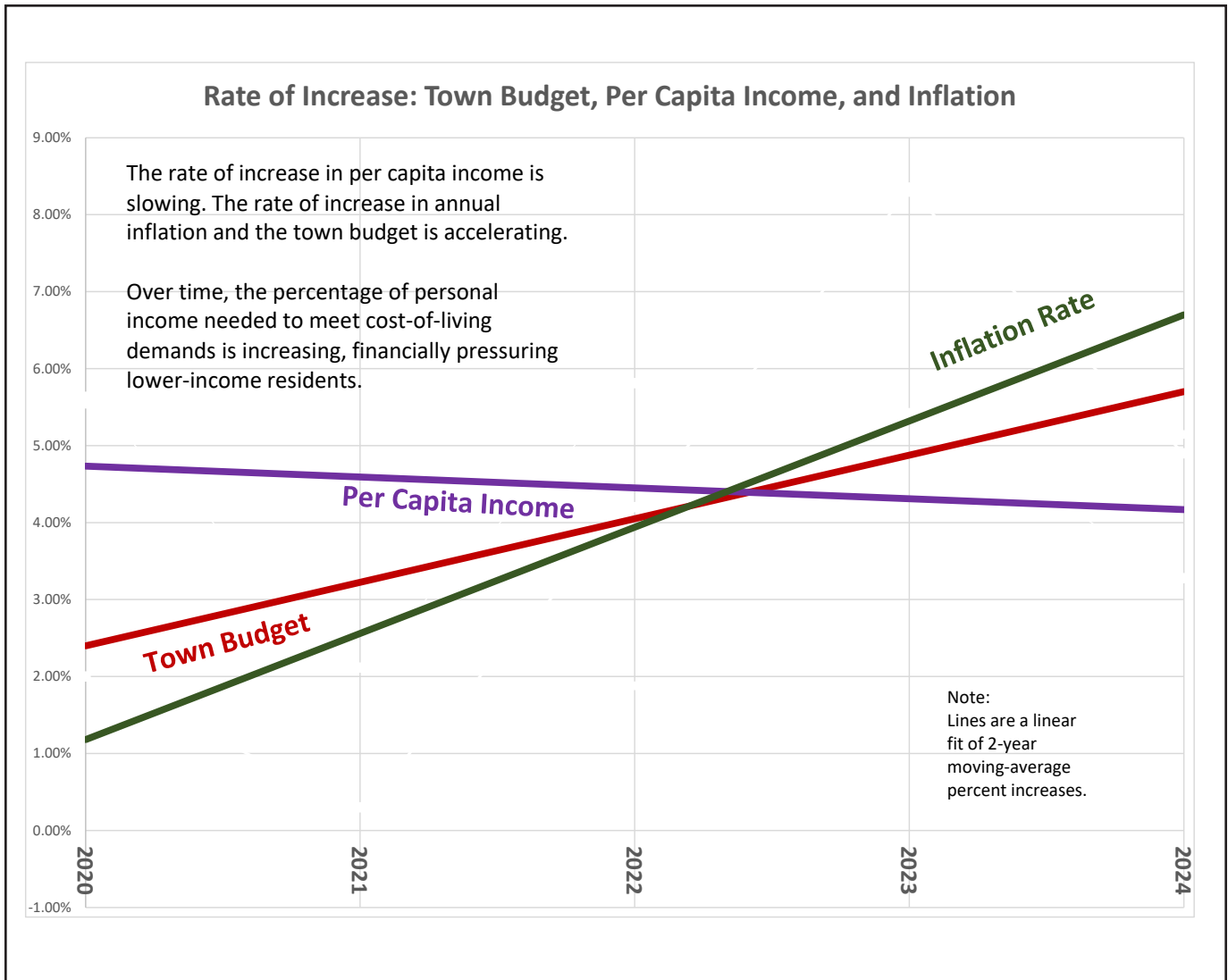
Petersham Deb Service



Financial Charts

Prepared by the Petersham Advisory Finance Committee

Rate of Increase: Town Budget, Per Capita Income, and Inflation





TOWN OF PETERSHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
Budget Report of the Petersham Advisory Finance Committee
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

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Selectboard Warrants for Special & Annual Town Meeting
FOR JUNE 5, 2023

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Town of Petersham Annual Town Meeting ~ June 5, 2023

Report to the Voters from the Advisory Finance Committee
 Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024)

Dear Voters, Please read this Report prior to the Special & Annual Town Meetings at Petersham Town Hall on **Monday, June 5, 2023 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 14–19) and the Special Articles (shown on Report page 21) is the TOTAL PETERSHAM BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 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*
 Jim Dowd
 Tally Lent
 Rachael Shea

SUMMARY TOTAL PETERSHAM BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

		FY2024 AFC Recommended
<u>TOWN EXPENSES:</u>		
Selectboard's Budget - Appropriation	pp. 14–19	\$1,668,431
Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District - Appropriation	pp. 19 & pp. 36–37	961,242
Montachusett Regional Tech School District - Appropriation	pp. 19 & pp. 38–39	130,375
Petersham Center School - Appropriation	pp. 19 & pp. 40–41	1,854,216
TOTAL GENERAL BUDGET		4,614,264
TOTAL ATM ARTICLES		480,701
TOTAL PETERSHAM BUDGET		\$5,094,965
<u>TOWN REVENUE:</u>		
*Massachusetts State Aid - Includes Chapter 70 Reimbursement of	\$496,207	\$750,543
Less: School Choice Outgoing		(70,073)
Estimated Local Receipts		783,600
Stabilization Fund		
Free Cash		270,895
Overlay Excess		-
Specified Funds		18,000
Prop. 2-1/2 Levy Limit	\$3,162,766 * Tax Levy 100.00% \$3,162,766	
Debt Exclusion - Petersham Center School Construction	103,485	
Debt Exclusion - Ralph C. Mahar RSD Construction	19,275	
Debt Exclusion - Nichewaung Inn Hazardous Materials Abatement	40,970	
Debt Exclusion - Fire Dept. Trucl	38,700	
Maximum Tax Levy Under Prop 2-1/2 (with Debt Exclusion)	<hr/>	3,365,196
Less: Overlay Reserve		(20,000)
ESTIMATED TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION		\$3,362,000
TOTAL POTENTIAL REVENUE AT THE LEVY LIMIT		\$5,098,161
AVAILABLE TAX LEVY NOT USED		\$3,196

Estimated Cherry Sheet for the Town of Petersham

	FY2024 SMW PROPOSED	FY2023 SENATE PRELIM	FY2022
Education			
Chapter 70	496,207	441,433	437,533
State Fiscal Stabilization Fund			-
School Transportation			-
School Lunch			-
Sub-Total Education Items	496,207	441,433	437,533
Change from last yr>	11.0%	3.1%	0.5%
General Government			
Lottery			-
General Aid/Supplemental Lottery			-
Unrestricted General Government Aid	137,050	132,801	125,997
Annual Formula Local Aid			-
Room Tax Increase			-
Highway Fund			-
Veterans' Benefits	527	478	438
Exemptions: Vets, Blind & Surviving Spouse, Elderly	11,291	11,759	13,577
State Owned Land	101,058	87,039	67,809
Public Libraries	4,828	4,371	3,724
Sub-Total General Government	254,754	236,448	211,545
Change from last yr>	7.7%	10.5%	7.4%
Total Estimated Cherry Sheet Receipts	750,961	677,881	649,078
Net Charges	(418)	(506)	(1,343)
Total State Aid	750,543	677,375	647,735
Change from last yr>	10.8%	4.4%	2.6%
School Choice Sending	(70,073)	(37,101)	(15,000)
School Choice Incoming	382,237	327,361	360,068
Local Receipts			
Other Department Revenue	<i>AFC guess</i> ESTIMATED 2024	<i>Assessor's guess</i> ESTIMATED 2023	ACTUAL 2022
Note			
Motor Vehicle Excise	195,000	195,000	196705
Penalties & Interest on Taxes & Excise	12,000	12,000	12094
Payments in Lieu of Taxes - DCR	500,000	500,000	500028
Payments in Lieu of Taxes - Heywood		30,000	
Fees	600	600	620
Rentals	600	600	600
Other Department Revenue (including Transfer Station Fees)	46,000	46,000	46410
Licenses & Permits	21,500	21,500	22788
Fines & Forfeits	500	500	500
Investment Income	1,400	1,400 #	1441
Misc. Recuring	-	-	
Misc. Non recurring	6,000	6,000 #	7131
Total Local Receipts	783,600	813,600	788,317
Change from last yr>		3.1%	-2.5%

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.

Summary of Current Town Loan Maturity Dates

Per Town Treasurer

FISCAL YEAR
of Loan Maturity

SCHOOL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS DEBT SERVICE SCHEDULE

- **Petersham Center School Building Construction Project bond maturity date:** 2025
20 year loan; begun in 2005
- **Mahar RSD School Building Construction Project bond maturity date:** 2025
20 year loan; begun in 2005

TOWN PROJECTS DEBT SERVICE SCHEDULE

- **Fire Department – Quick Attack Pumper Truck bond maturity date:** 2026
5 year loan
Approved at Annual Town Meeting of June 2019, and with approval via a follow-up Debt Exclusion Election in August 2019.
- **Highway Department – New Truck with Plow, Sander bond maturity date:** 2027
Approved at Annual Town Meeting of June 2021
- **Nichewaug Inn & Academy Project – Removal of Hazardous Materials bond maturity date:** 2027
10 year loan
Approved at Special Town Meeting of December 2016 and with approval via a follow-up Debt Exclusion Election in March 2017.
- **Town-wide Broadband Network Construction – bond maturity date:** 2029
10 year loan
Approved at Special Town Meeting of December 2016, and with approval via a Debt Exclusion Election in March 2017.
- **Nichewaug Inn & Academy Project – Building Demolition bond maturity date:** 2032
10 year loan
Approved at Special Town Meeting of December 2021 and June 2022

Report by the Petersham Advisory Finance Committee

For the Special and Annual Town Meetings on June 5, 2023 / For Fiscal Year 2024

Summary

The Fiscal Year 2024 budget prepared for your consideration at this Annual Town Meeting is a tight budget in that it keeps the increase of the non-education budget to 2.8% and the increase of the education budget to 2.9%. Using a conservative model for funding the budget, the town's levy capacity is near the maximum allowed under Proposition 2½ as it funds the Special Articles discussed below.

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 this coming year so that the town can achieve this budget result. The AFC recommends using the Free Cash available this year to largely pay for the Special Articles of the Special Town Meeting that involve the snow & ice removal deficit and Nichewaugh demolition deficit and to pay for the Special Articles of the Annual Town Meeting that involve replenishing the Stabilization Fund, servicing the debt from some capital improvements, keeping the Town's Reserve Fund at an historically prudent amount, paying for some modest painting and general repairs for the Town Hall and Town Office, and allowing the Town Clerk to complete the archiving and preservation of selected town records.

The AFC is providing a number of charts (*please see pages 1–4*) to help visualize the town's expenses, including a bar graph that shows the differences in FY24 spending compared to the fiscal year just ending. Please also note the graph that illustrates the town's forecasted debt obligations over the next few years. In anticipation of future payments on loans for a new highway department truck approved by the town in 2021 and two new police cruisers considered in this budget, the forecast is that, even with the 20-year loans for the Petersham Center School and Mahar building construction projects coming to an end in 2025, the town will still then have a debt burden slightly higher than this past year's debt obligations – provided it takes on no further debt.

The AFC continues to look beyond the Town's levy capacity to determine whether a budget is affordable for the town taxpayers. For example, it looks to the per capita income of Petersham residents as tracked by the MA Department of Revenue and compares the trends in per capita income to the trends in town spending. The last chart provides a sobering view that the trend in per capita income increases is not keeping pace with the trend in budget appropriation increases.

Lastly, there has been an encouraging development with a proposed increase of Chapter 70 educational funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. FY24 should see an increase of about \$54,774 (a 12.4% increase) according to the latest budget put forward by the Senate Ways & Means Committee. Please note, however, that Petersham anticipates having to pay \$70,073 for those choosing to send their children to school elsewhere, which represents an increase of \$32,972 (an 89% increase) this year, offsetting the gain in chapter 70 funds by over 60%.

Special Town Meeting

Article 1 (Snow and Ice Account Deficit) involves eliminating the FY23 Snow and Ice Account deficit, and the AFC recommends its passage using available Free Cash to cover the increased expenses of snow and ice removal this past winter.

Article 2 (Nichewaug Inn and Academy Demolition): As a result of increased costs of fuel and tipping fees, among other things, the town experienced cost overruns on the demolition project. The AFC recommends the passage of Article 2 using monies from the Board of Assessor's Overlay Excess Account and from Free Cash.

Annual Town Meeting -The FY2024 Operating Budget

Overall, the town's general operating budget (not including Special Articles) is \$126,620 more than last year, an increase of about 2.8%, broken down as follows:

- 1. The Petersham Center School (PCS) budget** request for Fiscal Year 2024 is \$1,854,216. This represents an increase of \$119,518 or a 6.9% rise from the prior year's appropriation.
- 2. The Ralph C. Mahar Regional School (Mahar) budget** request for Fiscal Year 2024 is \$961,242. This represents a decrease of \$73,707, a 7.1% decrease in Petersham's assessment from the prior year.
- 3. The Montachusett Technical School District budget** request for Fiscal Year 2024 is \$130,375. This represents an increase of \$36,607, a 39% rise in Petersham's assessment from the prior year, largely due to an increased enrollment of Petersham students.
- 4. The Selectboard's Budget non-education busdget** request for Fiscal Year 2024 is \$1,668,431. This represents an increase of \$45,943, a 2.8% rise in the appropriation from the prior year.

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

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

Special Articles and Free Cash

The total amount requested for Special Articles is \$480,701. This represents an increase of \$178,453, a 59% increase in the appropriation from FY23.

Articles 21 through 26 pertain to debt obligations, and the AFC recommends their passage.

Articles 21 and 22 pertain to the school construction loans for the Petersham Center School and the Mahar Regional School. Article 23 pertains to the loan for the removal of the asbestos and hazardous materials from the Nichewaug Inn & Academy buildings. Article 24 is for the debt incurred for project

> *continued on next page*

Report by the Petersham Advisory Finance Committee – continued

For Special and Annual Town Meeting on June 5, 2023 / For Fiscal Year 2024

expenses for completion of the town-wide broadband network project. Article 25 is for the principal and interest due for the loan for the Fire Department's Pumper Truck. Article 26 is for the debt incurred for the demolition of the Nichewaug Inn and Academy building.

Article 27 (Board of Assessors' Full Measure and List of Real Estate and Personal Property) is for year four of a five-year commitment to comply with state law, and the AFC recommends its passage.

Article 28 (Open Space & Recreation Committee) is for \$3,000 to fund a portion of a required match to leverage a \$20,000 Planning Assistance Grant for the Open Space and Recreation Committee to update the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan, a prerequisite for obtaining additional state grants. The AFC recommends its passage.

Article 29 (Police Cruisers) authorizes the Town to borrow \$100,000 for the purchase of two new cruisers. The AFC recommends passage of this article provided that a vote of the town be taken to approve a Proposition 2½ Debt Exclusion pursuant to General Laws chapter 59, section 21C(k). If approved, payments on this new loan would begin in FY25 along with payments on the long-awaited delivery of the highway department sander.

Article 30 (Town Clerk) allots \$10,000 for services to archive and preserve town records by the Town Clerk. 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 (Reserve Fund) earmarks \$30,000 for the Reserve Fund for FY2024, and the AFC recommends its passage.

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

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

Article 36 (Stabilization Fund) authorizes the depositing of funds into the Stabilization Fund, and the AFC recommends its passage.

Article 37 (Personal Property Tax) creates an exemption from personal property tax bills for personal property accounts/values/assessments that are under \$5,000. The AFC recommends Article 37 because the proceeds from such tax bills are insignificant compared with the resources needed to calculate and obtain the taxes.

Articles 38 (Mahar Regional School District Capital Stabilization Fund): While the funding source for Article 38 is the Mahar Regional School District Certified Excess & Deficiency Fund and does not strictly fall within the budget, the AFC recommends its passage.

Article 39 (Mahar Regional School District Special Education Stabilization Fund): While the funding source for Article 39 is the Mahar Regional School District Medicaid Fund and does not strictly fall within the budget, the AFC recommends its passage.

Article 40 (Citizen’s Petition Article regarding the Petersham Friday Market): This article represents a 100% increase over last year’s request. In prior years, the AFC has identified this article as voter preference, but the AFC does not recommend the doubling of the request.

Article 41 (Citizen’s Petition Article regarding Bylaw Change): The AFC does not recommend Article 41 as written. As proposed, this change will increase the selectboard salaries line item by over \$6,000.

Article 42 (Citizen’s Petition Article regarding Flagpole Light): The AFC does not recommend Article 42 because, among other things, it does not set an upper bound to the money sought.

Free Cash available this year is set at \$359,979. With respect to the Special Articles of the Special Town Meeting, we have recommended using \$46,510 of Free Cash to close the FY2023 Snow Removal account; and \$42,574 toward the Nichewaug Inn & Academy Demolition Deficit.

With regard to the Special Articles of the Annual Town Meeting, we have recommended using \$5,724 toward the Nichewaug Inn Hazardous Material Abatement Loan; \$22,240 toward the Broadband Make-Ready Loan; \$38,700 for the Fire Department Pumper Truck Loan; \$88,311 for the Nichewaug Inn & Academy Demolition Loan; \$5,000 for the Cyclical Reassessment of Values by the Assessors; \$5,000 toward the Town Records Preservation by the Town Clerk; \$10,000 for Town Hall & Town Office Painting and General Repairs; \$30,000 for the Reserve Fund; and \$65,920 to be deposited in the Stabilization Fund.

Conclusion

The Fiscal Year 2024 budget offered for your consideration is intended to limit tax appropriations to provide for essential services and to meet current obligations within the Proposition 2½ levy limit. We typically set a goal of keeping the total budget (the general budget + the special articles) approximately \$150,000 under the levy limit. Maintaining such “excess levy capacity” enables the Town to deal with late-breaking revenue shortfalls. This year given the need to replenish the Stabilization Account and meet its increased debt obligations, you will see a forecasted surplus at the bottom of the Report page of just \$3,196.

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 – General Budget Fiscal Year 2024

	SHEET	Requested 2024	RECOMMENDED 2024	Budget 2023	Budget 2022	Budget 2021
Moderator – Salary	1					
Moderator Expenses	1	70	70	70	70	70
Selectboard – Salaries	2	9,820	9,820	9,579	9,343	8,269
Part-time Office Assistant – Salary	2	8,000	8,000	8,303	8,100	14,350
Part-time Office - Floating Sec.-Salary	2	-	-	-	-	-
Expenses	2	4,600	4,600	4,400	4,250	4,280
Legal Fees	3	17,000	17,000	12,000	7,000	8,000
Medicare	4	30,000	30,000	28,473	25,954	25,637
Unemployment	5	-	-	-	-	-
Administrative Coordinator – Salary	6	25,062	25,062	23,646	23,069	22,506
Administrative Coordinator – Overtime	7	-	-	-	-	-
Software Maintenance	8	-	-	-	-	-
Central Telephone System	9	-	-	13,500	13,500	12,500
Audit	10	-	-	15,000	-	-
Town Hall & Office Building Maintenance	11	4,900	4,900	4,900	4,500	4,500
Treasurer – Salary	12	20,743	20,743	20,237	19,743	18,261
Treasurer Expenses	12	7,985	7,985	7,985	7,885	7,610
Treasurer Account Bank Fees	13	1	1	1	1	1
Payroll Processing	14	4,000	4,000	3,500	3,500	3,500
Town Accountant – Salary	15	23,196	23,196	22,630	22,078	21,539
Accounting Clerk – Salary	15	4,824	4,824	4,706	2,265	2,209
Accountant Expenses	15	8,173	8,173	7,973	7,533	7,354
Printing (Town Reports, By-Laws, Valuation Books, Street Lists, etc.)	16	2,900	2,900	1,450	1,450	1,450
Tax Collector – Salary	17	15,600	15,600	15,187	14,816	14,454
Tax Collector – Expenses	17	19,317	19,317	18,266	18,266	18,266
Tax Collector – Account Bank Fees	18	1	1	1	1	1

Town of Petersham – General Budget Fiscal Year 2024 *(continued)*

	SHEET	Requested 2024	RECOMMENDED 2024	Budget 2023	Budget 2022	Budget 2021
Board of Assessors – Salaries	19	9,820	9,820	9,579	9,343	9,114
Assistant Assessor – Salary	19	34,502	34,502	37,383	36,471	35,581
Expenses	19	34,175	34,175	28,151	26,971	22,112
Town Clerk – Salary	20	16,100	16,100	13,337	13,011	11,694
Town Clerk Part-time Assistant – Salary	20	757	757	738	720	702
Town Clerk – Expenses	20	3,500	3,500	3,284	2,984	2,984
Software & Software Maintenance	20	4,795	4,795	2,290	2,290	1,434
Land Court Fees	21	1	1	1	1	1
Vital Statistics	22	100	100	100	100	100
Election & Registration – Salaries	23	6,000	6,000	9,000	3,700	9,500
Election & Registration – Expenses	23	3,500	3,500	2,200	1,800	1,800
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	800	800	500	500	450
Town Hall & Town Office – Expenses	28	26,760	26,760	22,460	22,460	23,896
Zoning Board of Appeals - Salaries	29	-	-	-	-	500
Zoning Board of Appeals - Expenses	29	350	350	350	350	350
Zoning Board – Consultant/Expenses	29	500	500	500	500	-
Computer Services	62	1,250	1,250	1,000	1,000	1,000
TOTAL GENERAL OFFICE & FINANCE:		349,439	349,439	353,017	315,862	316,312
		<i>Change over previous year>></i>	-1.01%	11.76%	-0.14%	3.91%

Town of Petersham – General Budget Fiscal Year 2024 *(continued)*

	SHEET	Requested 2024	RECOMMENDED 2024	Budget 2023	Budget 2022	Budget 2021
<u>PROTECTION OF PERSONS & PROPERTY</u>						
Building Inspector – Salary	32	-	-	-	-	-
Building Inspector – Clerical Asst. Salary	32	5,460	5,460	5,117	3,328	3,062
Building Inspector – Contracted Expenses	32	11,580	11,580	11,580	11,371	10,966
Police Department:						
Chief – Salary	33	93,506	93,506	91,225	83,197	81,167
Full-time Officer – Salary	33	61,633	61,633	60,129	58,662	57,231
Full-time Officer – Overtime Wages	33	6,307	6,307	6,153	6,002	5,855
Part-time Officers – Salaries	33	56,180	56,180	53,473	53,473	50,357
Officers' Training	33	10,164	10,164	9,916	9,674	9,438
Police Dept. – Expenses	33	51,030	51,030	47,152	41,756	40,665
		-	-	-	-	-
Fire Department:						
Chief – Salary	34	6,550	6,550	6,390	6,234	4,082
Fire Dept. Members – Salaries	34	34,834	34,834	33,984	25,910	25,278
Fire Dept. – Expenses	34	35,240	35,240	32,533	30,425	31,625
Public Safety Communications						
Radio Repair	35	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
IMC & LEAPS	35	5,200	5,200	4,865	4,705	4,705
Forest Warden	36	32	32	31	30	27
Tree Warden – Salary	37	3,312	3,312	3,231	3,152	3,152
Tree Warden – Expenses	37	685	685	685	685	685
Animal Control – Salary	38	3,405	3,405	3,321	3,239	3,159
Animal Control – Expenses	38	1,925	1,925	1,925	1,925	1,925
Insurance – Property, Liability, Workers' Comp, IOD	39	90,600	90,600	89,131	85,392	85,392
Insurance – Nichewaug Inn & Academy property	39	-	-	-	-	-
Emergency Management – Salary & Expenses	40	4,515	4,515	4,479	4,444	4,410
Conservation Commission	41	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	-
Hearing Enforcement Officer	64	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL PROTECTION PERSONS & PROPERTY:		485,458	485,458	468,620	435,404	424,981
		<i>Change over previous year>></i>	3.6%	7.6%	2.5%	1.2%

Town of Petersham – General Budget Fiscal Year 2024 *(continued)*

	SHEET	Requested 2024	RECOMMENDED 2024	Budget 2023	Budget 2022	Budget 2021
<u>HEALTH AND SANITATION</u>						
Administration and Health						
Board of Health – Salaries	42	577	577	561	545	531
Board of Health – Admin. Assistant Salary	42	8,654	8,654	7,867	7,675	7,253
Board of Health – Expenses	42	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,700
Inspector of Animals - Salary	43	2,803	2,803	2,789	2,720	2,653
Transfer Station Operations	65	63,000	63,000	62,800	56,267	52,176
TOTAL HEALTH AND SANITATION:		77,734	77,734	76,717	69,907	65,313
<i>Change over previous year>></i>		1.33%	1.3%	9.7%	7.0%	0.5%
<u>HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT</u>						
Superintendent – Salary	44	62,000	62,000	56,781	56,781	54,044
Highway Dept Other – Salaries	44	119,413	119,413	110,036	110,036	100,541
Town Barn Account – Expenses	45	8,750	8,750	8,150	8,150	8,150
General Highways – Expenses	46	62,600	62,600	59,800	53,000	55,000
Snow & Ice Removal	47	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Street Lights	48	9,000	9,000	9,000	8,500	7,500
TOTAL HIGHWAY DEPT.:		321,763	321,763	303,767	296,467	285,235
<i>Change over previous year>></i>		5.92%	5.9%	2.5%	3.9%	2.3%
<u>CHARITIES & VETERANS BENEFITS</u>						
District Veteran Agent – District Allocation	49	3,816	3,816	3,928	3,839	3,759
Veterans – Benefits	49	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
TOTAL VETERANS BENEFITS:		13,816	13,816	13,928	13,839	13,759
<i>Change over previous year>></i>		-0.80%	-0.8%	0.6%	0.6%	8.5%

Town of Petersham – General Budget Fiscal Year 2024 *(continued)*

	SHEET	Requested 2024	RECOMMENDED 2024	Budget 2023	Budget 2022	Budget 2021	
<u>UNCLASSIFIED</u>							
Library	50	10,035	10,035	9,910	9,790	9,660	
Bandstand Lighting	51	350	350	250	250	250	
Town Clock	52	100	100	75	73	73	
County Retirement	53	209,575	209,575	204,612	188,910	174,811	
Memorial Day	55	600	600	600	600	600	
Care of Common	56	9,945	9,945	9,945	7,863	7,863	
Interest – Includes Broadband Loan Interest	57	-	-	-	-	-	
Cemetery Commission – Salary	59	843	843	822	801	781	
Cemetery Commission – Cemetery Care Contract	59	21,822	21,822	21,822	21,822	20,985	
Cemetery Commission – Expenses	59	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	
Healthcare Insurance – For full-time employees	60	82,100	82,100	76,370	71,041	70,141	
Healthcare Insurance – For retirees	63	63,800	63,800	61,383	58,460	56,485	
High Tree Work – Pruning, Removal, Planting	61	15,000	15,000	15,000	27,000	6,000	
Open Space and Recreation	66	1,550	1,550	1,550	550	50	
Council on Aging	67	1,500	1,500	1,100	1,100	1,100	
TOTAL UNCLASSIFIED:		420,220	420,220	406,439	391,260	351,799	
		Change over previous year>>	3.39%	3.4%	3.9%	11.2%	0.3%
TOTAL NON-EDUCATION BUDGET:		1,668,431	1,668,431	1,622,488	1,522,739	1,457,399	
		Change over previous year>>	2.83%	2.8%	6.6%	4.5%	1.8%

Town of Petersham – General Budget Fiscal Year 2024 *(continued)*

SHEET	Requested 2024	RECOMMENDED 2024	Budget 2023	Budget 2022	Budget 2021
EDUCATION BUDGET					
RALPH C. MAHAR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	961,242	961,242	1,034,949	862,683	792,500
	-7.1%	-7.1%	20.0%	8.9%	-10.5%
MONTACHUSETT TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	130,375	130,375	93,768	61,907	39,037
	39.0%	39.0%	51.5%	58.6%	165.8%
PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL					
Regular Education and General Expense	1,672,909	1,672,909	1,611,546	1,492,874	1,542,027
Special Needs Education Expense	541,307	541,307	508,513	545,476	491,083
PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL BUDGET TOTAL	2,214,216	2,214,216	2,120,059	2,038,350	2,033,110
Less: Known Income + Choice carryover	22,237	22,237	(58,000)	(32,932)	(112,276)
Less: Incoming School Choice	(382,237)	(382,237)	(327,361)	(360,068)	(364,556)
Reserve – from Incoming School Choice*	-	-	-	-	-
PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL APPROPRIATION	1,854,216	1,854,216	1,734,698	1,645,350	1,556,278
	6.9%	6.9%	5.4%	5.7%	2.4%
TOTAL EDUCATION BUDGET APPROPRIATION:	2,945,833	2,945,833	2,863,415	2,569,940	2,387,815
GRAND TOTAL GENERAL BUDGET:	4,614,264	4,614,264	4,485,903	4,092,679	3,845,214
Grand Total General Budget -Change over previous year>>	2.86%	2.9%	9.6%	6.4%	-0.2%
ALL 3 school budgets (change over previous year)>>	2.9%	2.9%	11.4%	7.6%	-1.3%

**Town of Petersham
Special Articles Fiscal Year 2023 Special Town Meeting**

FISCAL YEAR 2023 — RECOMMENDED ARTICLES AND FUNDING SOURCES

	ARTIC	APPROPRIATE	RAISE BY TAXATION	From Free Cash	From Stabilization Fund	From Planning Board Revolving Fund	From Board of Health Revolving Fund	From Assessors Excess Overlay Account	REQUESTED AMOUNT
-									
Snow & Ice Removal Deficit	1	46,510		46,510					46,510
Nichewaug Inn Demolition Deficit	2	67,574		42,574				25,000	67,574
TOTAL SPECIAL ARTICLES		\$114,084	\$	\$89,084	\$	\$	\$	\$25,000	\$114,084

Town of Petersham

Special Articles Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Town Meeting

FISCAL YEAR 2024 — RECOMMENDED ARTICLES AND FUNDING SOURCES

Description	ARTICLE #	Type	TOTAL	RAISE BY	From	From	From	From	REQUESTED AMOUNT
			APPROPRIATE Recommended	TAXATION	Available Funds	Free Cash	Assessors Excess Overlay	Broadband Enterprise	
Debt Service - Petersham Center School Construction	21	DE	103,485	103,485					103,485
Debt Service - Mahar RSD School Construction	22	DE	19,275	19,275					19,275
Debt Service - Nichewaug Hazardous Material Abatement	23	DE	40,970	35,246			5,724		40,970
Debt Service - Broadband make-ready BB1	24		32,240		10,000		22,240		32,240
Debt Service - Fire Department Pumper Truck	25	DE	38,700				38,700		38,700
Debt Service - Nichewaug Inn & Academy Demolition	26		88,311				88,311		88,311
Board Assessors - Cyclical Reassessment of Values	27		5,000				5,000		5,000
Open Space & Recreation Committee - Planning Grant	28		3,000		3,000				3,000
Police Dept. - Two Cruisers (2 @ \$100,000)	29	DE							
Town Clerk - Records Preservation	30		10,000		5,000		5,000		10,000
Town Hall & Town Office Painting & General Repairs	31		10,000				10,000		10,000
Reserve Fund	32		30,000				30,000		30,000
Petersham Brass Band Concerts	33		1,800	1,800					1,800
Broadband MLP Enterprise Fund	35		30,000					30,000	30,000
Transfer to Stabilization Fund @	36		65,920				65,920		65,920
Citizens' Petition Article - Friday Market Music Performan	40		2,000	2,000					2,000
Citizens' Petition Article - Flag Lighting	42								-
TOTAL ATM ARTICLES			\$480,701	\$161,806	\$18,000	\$270,895	\$	\$30,000	\$480,701
Proposed General Total Budget			\$4,614,264						\$4,614,264
GRAND TOTAL BUDGET			\$5,094,965						\$5,094,965

Capital Improvement Planning Committee Report for Fiscal Year 2024

The Capital Improvement Planning Committee would like to recommend the following budget for Capital Improvement items for Fiscal Year 2024.

All requests were evaluated on need, cost effectiveness, quality of improvement, completeness, and availability of funds.

The following items are recommended for inclusion in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for June of 2023 for the Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Plan, as the total operating budget allows.

The CIPC respectfully highlights that the first three of these four projects had been brought forth and set aside in the prior year due to budget constraints.

Police Department – Two new 2023 Cruisers with accessories as needed

Project as outlined by the PD Chief for two new vehicles and the budget figure allows for trade-in value of two existing vehicles **up to \$ 100,000.**

The CIPC recommends borrowing for this item;
the Treasurer will review with Finance Committee and Selectboard.

The CIPC recommends that \$100,000 will cover the purchase of both new vehicles; the final figure to be based on trade-ins and package deals might be slightly less.

Petersham Center School – Gutters on the Original School **up to \$ 40,000.**

Upon in-depth review, the CIPC supports replication of existing gutters so as to maintain existing architectural details of this iconic town building.

The CIPC also recognizes that 1.) the budget might need to be added to with additional funds from other sources (i.e. grants), and/or 2.) the project might need to occur in phases based on budget allotments.

Town Clerk – Town Records Preservation **\$ 10,000.**

The CIPC supports the need to close out this on-going project.

Town Hall & Town Office Exterior Painting & General Repairs **\$ 20,000.**

The CIPC concurs with need for maintenance of these two buildings; costs will only increase if maintenance is not addressed.

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

MLP Board Broadband Enterprise Account Budgets For Fiscal Year 2023 and Projected Fiscal Year 2024

MLP Board – Quarterly Subscribers' Fee Report For Fiscal Year 2021–2024					Updated at May 2023
Yr & No. of Subscribers	Using a Monthly Subscriber's Fee of \$6.99 (throughout the year)				YEAR -END TOTAL
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	
<u>YEAR ONE – FY2021</u> START-UP YEAR 150–420 subscribers x \$6.99 per mo.	\$ 1,610.68 Actual @ 8/30/2020	\$ 4,547.35 Actual @ 12/31/2020	\$ 7,755.36 Actual @ 3/31/2020	\$ 7,510.00 Actual @ 6/31//2021	<u>FY 2021:</u> \$ 21,423. ACTUAL
FY21 ACTUAL Running Total	\$ 1,610.38	\$ 6,158.03	\$ 13,913.39	\$ 21,423.39	ACTUAL \$21,423.39
<u>YEAR TWO – FY2022</u> 420 +/- subscribers x \$6.99 per mo. [436 subscribers confirmed by Matrix @ 6/1/22]	\$ 8,875.15 Actual @ 8/30/2021	\$ 8,847.25 Actual @ 12/31/2021	\$ 8,705.28 Actual @ 3/31/2022	\$ 8,919.24. Projected @ 6/30/2022	<u>FY 2022:</u> \$ 35,346.92 ACTUAL
FY22 Actual Running Total	\$ 8,875.15	\$ 17,722.40	\$ 26,427.68	\$ 35,346.92	ACTUAL \$35,346.92
<u>YEAR THREE - FY2023</u> 430 +/- subscribers @ July 1, 2022 x \$6.99 per mo.	\$ 8,705.26 Actual @ 3/30/2022	\$ 8,919.24 Actual @ 6/30/2022	\$ 8,964.12 Actual @ 9/30/2022	\$ 8,900. Projected @ 12/30/2022	<u>FY 2023:</u> \$ 34,488. ESTIMATED
FY23 Actual Running Total	\$ 8,705.26	\$ 8,919.24	\$ 8,964.12	\$ 8,900. est.	
<u>YEAR FOUR - FY2024</u> 430 +/- subscribers x \$6.99 per mo.	\$ 8,600. Estimated @ 3/30/2023	\$ 8,600. Estimated @ 6/30/2023	\$ 8,600. Estimated @ 9/30/2023	\$ 8,600. Estimated @ 12/30/203	<u>FY 2024:</u> \$ 34,400. ESTIMATED

BUDGET NOTES:

As currently known, Petersham’s town-wide fiber optic network requires a regular annual operating expense budget of approximately \$23,000.

Expenses include: Required annual Surety Bonds for both utilities (Verizon and National Grid) currently at \$3,025/each [\$6,050]; required annual Utility Pole Rental Fees collected by Verizon [\$10,000 +/-]; Hub Room Generator maintenance package [\$1,000]; support for Hazardous Tree Work to maintain cable lines for customers [\$5,000 +/-] = \$22,000.

Surety Bond fees and Pole Rental charges will likely incrementally increase over time (for example, the MLP Board saw a small increase from FY21 to FY22 for the required surety bonds), so setting of Subscriber Fee Rates and overall budgeting needs to allow cushion for those increases.

For the first time, in Fiscal Year 2024, the MLP Board is able to recommend use of \$10,000 of Enterprise Fund to help pay for debt service for the project installation loans.

It is the policy of the MLP Board to review the Subscriber’s Fee so as to maintain as low as possible for customers while also covering annual network operating costs and in the case of FY2024, to use for loan debt.

Nichewaug Inn & Academy Demolition Project

Budget Summary

PROJECT TIMELINE:

Demolition work began on July 20, 2022
ended on Nov. 10, 2022 (13 weeks)

ORIGINAL BUDGET: For full demolition

Base estimate –SWC was the low qualified bid	\$ 558,000.
Back-fill estimate (per low bid of \$21/ton)	124,000.
Contingency @ 5%	34,000.
Project Clerk for the Town – general project oversight	5,000.

ORIGINAL BUDGET **\$ 721,000.**

UPDATED BUDGET APPROVED as of DEC. 15 2022 **\$ 775,000.**

PROJECT FUNDING @ 12/2022:

Project Loan – approved at Town Meeting June 2022	\$ 621,000.
ARPA Phase 1 – approved May, 2022	\$ 100,000.
ARPA Phase 3 – approved Nov. 17, 2022	\$ 25,000.
ARPA Phase 4 – proposed at Dec. 15, 2022	\$ 29,000.

PROPOSED PROJECT FUNDING @ DEC. 15, 2022 **\$ 775,000.**

PROJECT INVOICES @ 12/2022:

FROM: Stamford Wrecking Company (SWC)

Invoice #1 [7/31/22]	\$ 55,242
Invoice #2 [8/31/22]	\$ 316,772.
Invoice #3 [9/30/22]	\$ 73,102.
Invoice #4 [11/1/22]	\$ 73,102.
Invoice #5 [12/5/22]	\$ 320,743.
Invoice #6 [12/5/22]	\$ 15,446.

SWC Total & FINAL Invoiced as of December 5, 2022 **\$ 854,414.**

SWC original base bid of \$558,000 does not include items listed below which the town handled:

RE: Back Fill – per unit pricing of final total of 5,608 tons x \$21/ton

Total invoiced by SWC **\$ 117,752.**

RE: Project Clerk Services

Project Clerk – Final Total Invoiced **\$ 2,132.**

RE: Petersham Sanitary Service

#1 pumping septic (4,800 gals @ .21 cents)	\$ 1,008.
#2 pumping septic (10,080 gals @ .21 cents)	\$ 2,270.
<u>Psham Sanitary Service – Final Total Invoiced</u>	\$ 3,278.

SUB-TOTAL TOWN EXPENSES **\$ 123,162.**

UPDATES AT OCT. – NOV. 2022:

CHANGE ORDER: Final hauling of 131 loads at approx. \$4,300 / per load = \$552,000.

- Original budget allowed for @ \$2,500 /per load = \$327,500 Final \$ from SWC = + \$ 224,634.

TOTAL CHANGE ORDER = + **\$ 224,634.**

CREDIT: for topsoil to 4 inch depth & hold on seed – \$ 20,522.

CREDIT: for foundation removal to below grade – \$ 17,710.

CREDIT: for town removal of green debris – \$ 1,250.

CREDIT: for town providing water & moving asphalt – \$ 6,500.

LESS: for projected actual backfill of \$124,000 @ final total of \$117,762 – \$ 6,238.

TOTAL CREDITS = **\$ 45,982.**

TOTAL COSTS @ 12/15/2022:

SWC Final Invoiced Total = **\$ 854,414.**

\$558,000 Original + \$224,634 Addtl. Debris Hauling + \$117,762 Backfill – \$45,982 Credits above

Town's Project Clerk, Petersham Sanitary pumping (see above) + **\$ 5,410.**

Town's 2023 loam & seed projected + **\$ 27,000.**

TOTAL FINAL COSTS **\$ 886,824.**

TOTAL FUNDING:

Project Loan \$ 621,000.

Total ARPA funding approved for project use \$ 197,243.

PROPOSED: Total Budget funding at MAY 2023 **\$ 818,243.**

>> FINAL PROJECT DEFICIT @ MAY 2023 **(– \$ 68,581.)**

\$884,824. – \$818,243. = \$68,581.

ACTUAL DEFICIT:

Per Town Accountant's Expenditure Report @ May 27, 2023 **(– \$ 67,574.)**

Exp. Report shows \$82,574. – \$15,000. ARPA to be transferred = (– \$67,574.)

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 5, 2023

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 **\$46,510.00 to eliminate the Fiscal Year 2023 Snow and Ice Account deficit**; or act in relation thereto.

— RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 2.

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, or otherwise provide the sum of **\$67,574.00 to eliminate the Fiscal Year 2023 Nichewaug Inn & Academy Demolition Project deficit**; or act in relation thereto.

— RECOMMENDED

-Town of Petersham
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
June 5, 2023

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 2024, 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 2024; 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 2024; 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 2024; 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 2024; 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 2024; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 8. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ to be expended by the Treasurer **for fees due to the Fire Chief**; the Accountant shall be authorized to effect transfers from this account as required to cover vouchers submitted for payment upon verification that the disbursement requested does not exceed receipts to date; and expenditures from said Revolving Fund **shall not exceed \$4,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2024; 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 2024; 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 2024; 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 2024; 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 2024; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 13. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to authorize a Revolving Fund, pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ to be expended by **the Conservation Commission to pay for services and fees charged for the filing of hearing applications, to include retrieval fees, legal notices, clerical fees, postage fees, and the carrying out of duties required**; said fund to be established from receipts collected by the Conservation Commission and expenditures from said Revolving Fund **shall not exceed \$5,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2024; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 14. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund, pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ and pursuant to Local Cultural Council Regulations at 962 CMR 2:05, for deposits of **local funds collected by the Petersham Cultural Council, to be expended by the Petersham Cultural Council for the purpose of carrying out its duties;** and expenditures from said Revolving Fund **shall not exceed \$3,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2024; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 15. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund, pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ to be expended **by the Board of Health, to pay for consulting services as required by the Board of Health, said fund to be established from receipts collected by the Board of Health for fees for its services;** and expenditures from said Revolving Fund **shall not exceed \$10,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2024; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 16. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ for deposits of fees collected under the Planning Board Rules and Regulations Fee Schedule, to be expended by **the Planning Board for the purpose of carrying out its duties;** and expenditures from said Revolving Fund **shall not exceed \$1,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2024; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 17. CONSENT

To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ for deposits of fees collected under the Zoning Board of Appeals Rules and Regulations Fee Schedule, to be expended by **the Zoning Board of Appeals for the purposes of carrying out its duties;** and expenditures from said Revolving Fund **shall not exceed \$3,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2024; 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 2024 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 2024** 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 \$20,743.00; Town Clerk \$15,600.00; Tax Collector \$15,600.00; Selectboard, Chair \$3,662.00; Vice Chair \$3,172.00, Clerk \$2,986.00; 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;** 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 **\$103,485.00 to pay the Fiscal Year 2024 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 **\$19,275.00 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;** 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 **\$40,970.00 to pay the principal and interest due on the note for debt incurred for asbestos and hazardous materials removal at the town-owned building known as the Nichewaugh Inn & Academy** located at 25 Common Street; as approved by vote of the Special Town Meeting of December 12, 2016; or act in relation thereto.

— RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 24.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$32,240.00 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;** as approved by vote of the Special Town Meeting of December 12, 2016; or act in relation thereto.

— RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 25.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$38,700.00 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 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 **\$88,311.00 to pay the principal and interest due on the note for debt incurred for demolition of the town-owned building known as the Nichewaug Inn & Academy** located at 25 Common Street; as approved by vote of the Special Town Meeting of June 6, 2022; or act in relation thereto.

— RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 27.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$5,000.00 for Board of Assessors' Year Four of Five Years of payments for the Full Measure and List of all real estate and personal property as required by State Law;** or to act in relation thereto.

— RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 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 **\$3,000.00 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;** or to act in relation thereto.

— RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 29.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$100,000.00 to purchase two new and equipped 2023 cruisers for the Police Department;** or to act in relation thereto.

— **RECOMMENDED If funded with debt excluded borrowing**

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 **\$10,000.00 for payment to purchase services for archiving and preservation of certain Town Records by the Town Clerk;** or to act in relation thereto.

— **RECOMMENDED**

ARTICLE 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 **\$10,000.00 for payment to purchase services of painting and general repairs of exteriors of Petersham Town Hall and Town Office Building;** or to act in relation thereto.

— **RECOMMENDED**

ARTICLE 32.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$30,000.00 for deposit into the Reserve Fund** for Fiscal Year 2023; or act in relation thereto.

— **RECOMMENDED**

ARTICLE 33.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$1,800.00 for six (6) Petersham Brass Band concerts at \$300.00 per concert, to be held during the summer;** or to act in relation thereto.

— **VOTER PREFERENCE**

ARTICLE 34.

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

— **RECOMMENDED**

ARTICLE 35.

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds the sum of **\$30,000.00 to the Petersham Municipal Light Plant Broadband Enterprise Fund for Fiscal Year 2024 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 36.

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 37.

To see if the Town will vote **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**; or act in relation thereto.

— **RECOMMENDED**

ARTICLE 38.

To see if the Town will vote 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; or act in relation thereto.

— **RECOMMENDED**

ARTICLE 39.

To see if the Town will vote 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; or act in relation thereto.

— **RECOMMENDED**

ARTICLE 40.

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 **\$2,000.00 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, or act in relation thereto.

— NOT RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 41.

CITIZEN'S PETITION ARTICLE

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article II Town Meetings Section D to read as follows:

TOWN OFFICERS AND APPOINTEES AND THE ELECTION OR APPOINTMENT OF SAME

Elected Officers – Moderator for a term of three years; Town Clerk for a term of three years; Selectboard to consist of five members, for a term of three years each, who shall hold no other Town office except as provided for by the By-laws of the Town of Petersham; Town Treasurer for a term of three years; Tax Collector for a term of three years; Board of Assessors to consist of three members, one to be elected each year for a term of three years; Board of Health to consist of three members, one to be elected each year for a term of three years; School Committee to consist of three members, one to be elected each year for a term of three years; one member to the Mahar Regional School Committee for a term of three years; Trustees of the Public Library to consist of three members, one to be elected each year for a term of three years; three Constables to be elected for a term of three years; Planning Board to consist of five members, each elected for a term of three years and to vote 1) that this amendment shall be implemented starting with the 2023 annual town meeting for the election of Town officers; 2) that all subsequent terms of Planning Board members be for three years, Or act in relation thereto.

— NOT RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 42.

CITIZEN'S PETITION ARTICLE

To see if the Town will vote to approve nighttime lighting of the flag of the United States on the Town Common by July 4th, 2023; and raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds and/or accept gifts towards the lighting equipment, or act in relation thereto.

— NOT RECOMMENDED

Due to no upper bound to money sought

— END OF WARRANT —

Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District

Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Budget, 2023–2024 School Year

	Total	New Salem	Orange	Petersham	Wendell
FY 2024 Proposed Budget	15,586,574				
Less Debt	193,100				
Less Transportation					
Pupil Transportation	959,480				
SpEd Transportation	400,000				
Net School Spending	14,033,994				
Less Grant Revenue	1,008,000				
Less Chapter 70 Aid	6,047,557				
Net Budget	6,978,437				
Minimum Local Contribution (MLC) required by Ed Refo	2,757,119	337,452	1,723,589	494,248	201,830
Difference between MLC and Net Budget Balance	4,221,318				
Foundation Enrollment (as of 10/1/2022)	551	35	426	55	35
Apportion Percentage	100.00%	6.3521%	77.3140%	9.9819%	6.3521%
Apportion 24D amount by agreement		268,142	3,263,669	421,366	268,142
Transportation Budget	1,359,480				
Less Aid to Transportation Preliminary	602,370				
Net Transportation	757,110	48,092	585,352	75,574	48,092
Debt Payments					
Not Subject to Prop 2 1/2	0	0	0	0	0
Total Assessments, MLC plus apportionments	7,735,547	653,686	5,572,610	991,187	518,064
Excess & Deficiency	300,000	19,056	231,942	29,946	19,056
FY 2023 Assessment Not Exempt from Prop 2 1/2	7,435,547	634,630	5,340,668	961,242	499,008
Debt Payments Subject to	193,100	12,266	149,293	19,275	12,266
Prop 2 1/2 (School Construction) Exempt					
Total FY 2024 Assessment	7,628,647	646,896	5,489,961	980,517	511,274



Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District
Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Budget, 2023–2024 School Year *(continued)*

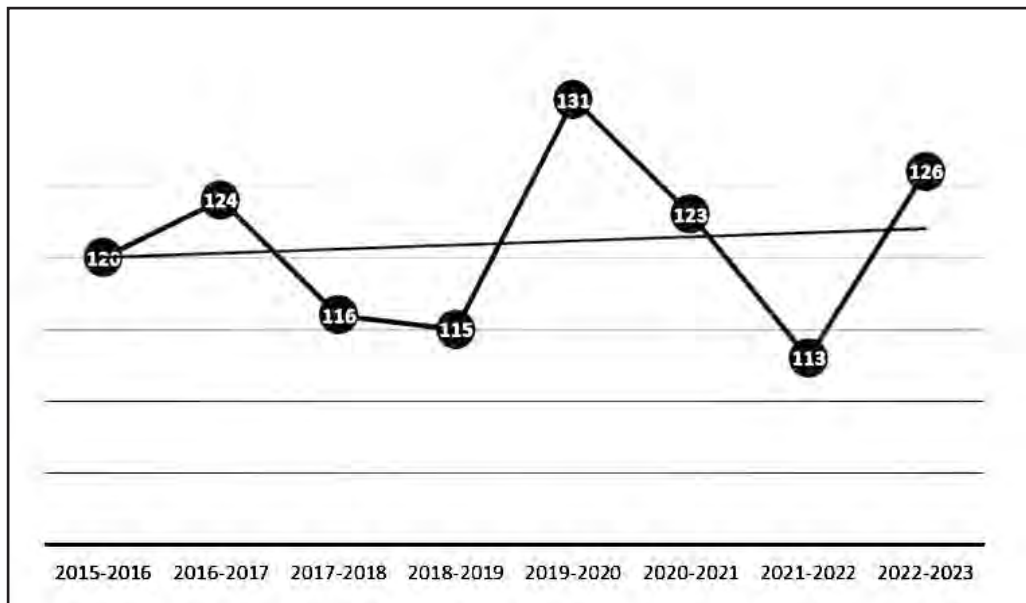
			Non-Exempt	Exempt	Total		
				(School Constr)			
New Salem							
FY2024 Assessment			634,630	12,266	646,896		
FY2023 Assessment			695,627	15,330	710,957		
Dollar Increase			(60,997)	(3,064)	(64,061)		
Percent Increase			-8.77%	-19.99%	-9.01%		
Orange							
FY2024 Assessment			5,340,668	149,293	5,489,961		
FY2023 Assessment			4,947,132	152,591	5,099,723		
Dollar Increase			393,536	(3,298)	390,238		
Percent Increase			7.95%	-2.16%	7.65%		
Petersham							
FY2024 Assessment			961,242	19,275	980,517		
FY2023 Assessment			1,034,949	22,461	1,057,410		
Dollar Increase			(73,707)	(3,186)	(76,893)		
Percent Increase			-7.12%	-14.18%	-7.27%		
Wendell							
FY2024 Assessment			499,008	12,266	511,274		
FY2023 Assessment			539,890	14,617	554,507		
Dollar Increase			(40,882)	(2,351)	(43,233)		
Percent Increase			-7.57%	-16.08%	-7.80%		

Petersham Center School

Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Budget, 2023–2024 School Year

		FY23	FY24	INCREASE	PERCENT	PERCENT OF
ACCOUNT		BUDGET	PROPOSED	(DECREASE)	INCREASE	BUDGET
1000	District Leadership	57,713	58,433	720	1.25%	2.64%
2100/2200	School Building Leadership	142,689	149,282	6,593	4.62%	6.74%
2354	Building Technology	64,905	53,810	-11,095	-17.09%	2.43%
2300	General Instruction	706,064	692,461	-13,603	-1.93%	31.27%
2307/2700	Guidance & Testing	15,270	0	-15,270	-100.00%	0.00%
3200	Other School Services	75,109	77,227	2,118	2.82%	3.49%
3370	Transportation	135,841	135,841	0	0.00%	6.13%
4000	Operations & Maintenance	253,179	256,845	3,666	1.45%	11.60%
5200	Fixed Charges	185,000	249,010	64,010	34.60%	11.25%
9000	Special Education	484,289	541,307	57,018	11.77%	24.45%
		2,120,059	2,214,216	94,157	4.44%	

Center School Enrollment at October 1st



Petersham Center School
Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Budget, 2023–2024 School Year *(continued)*

	Adopted FY23	Proposed FY24	Change
FY Proposed Budget	2,120,059	2,214,216	94,157
Less Grant Revenue (Circuit Breaker (CB)/240)	58,000	0	(58,000) *
Less School Choice Revenue	327,361	360,000	32,639
Less any School Choice carryover from previous FY			
Less any additional grant revenue (non-Covid)			
Less any Covid Grant funds at year end			
Net Budget	1,734,698	1,854,216	119,518
Minimum Local Contribution (MLC) required by Ed Reform	<u>553,478</u>	<u>637,636</u>	84,158
Difference between MLC and Net Budget balance	1,181,220	1,216,580	35,360
Debt Payments			
Not subject to Prop 2 1/2	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	0
Total Assessments, MLC plus apportionments	1,734,698	1,854,216	119,518
Debt Payments subject to Prop 2 1/2 (School Construction)	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	0
Total FY Assessment	<u>1,734,698</u>	<u>1,854,216</u>	119,518
PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL BUDGET & ASSESSMENTS			
FY24 Assessment		1,854,216	
FY23 Assessment	1,734,698		
Dollar increase		119,518	
Percent Increase		6.89%	
* Expense gets pulled out and paid through Circuit Breaker/Code 240 per auditor			

Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Budget, 2023-2024 School Year

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENTS

COMMUNITIES	FY2024 FOUNDATION ENROLLMENT	FISCAL YEAR 2024					PROPOSED ASSESSMENT FY'2024	FY 2023 FOUNDATION ENROLLMENT	APPROVED ASSESSMENT FY2023	CHANGE FY 23 - FY 24
		FOUNDATION BUDGET	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)				
			REQUIRED MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION	TRANSPORT OPERATING ASSESS	CAPITAL ASSESS	BONDS				
Ashburnham	72	1,451,123	603,063	25,757	12,480	0	641,300	67	575,224	66,076
Ashby	37	746,716	374,168	13,236	5,485	0	302,887	34	350,957	41,800
Athol	111	2,237,148	321,631	39,708	20,960	0	382,300	114	373,827	8,473
Barre	42	846,489	315,705	15,035	8,338	0	340,667	50	370,256	(30,189)
Fitchburg	363	7,316,080	1,661,077	129,857	72,180	0	1,863,115	375	1,817,045	46,070
Gardner	173	3,496,727	1,014,628	61,886	30,525	0	1,107,341	177	1,134,654	(27,313)
Harvard	8	120,927	85,803	2,852	11,629	0	110,500	8	135,872	(25,372)
Holden	130	2,820,084	1,450,171	46,505	43,156	0	1,538,832	107	1,218,380	320,452
Hubbardston	40	806,180	427,077	14,309	6,025	0	447,411	46	497,609	(60,198)
Lunenburg	97	1,954,985	1,127,113	34,700	19,577	0	1,181,390	94	1,054,376	127,014
Petersham	11	221,699	124,676	3,935	1,784	0	130,375	8	93,768	36,607
Phillipston	22	443,399	227,132	7,870	2,332	0	237,334	21	219,587	17,747
Princeton	25	603,862	401,498	8,943	5,379	0	416,820	26	396,361	19,469
Royalston	10	201,545	71,651	3,577	1,527	0	75,755	8	57,408	19,347
Sterling	61	1,229,424	683,550	21,822	12,659	0	1,018,231	62	975,792	42,439
Templeton	83	1,872,823	545,212	29,692	13,285	0	588,189	87	603,636	(15,346)
Westminster	74	1,491,432	771,335	25,472	14,692	0	812,489	73	773,660	38,829
Winchendon	106	2,136,376	650,523	37,920	17,617	0	706,060	109	702,106	3,952
Total	1,455	29,486,021	11,167,317	524,080	300,000	0	11,891,397	1,467	11,352,418	638,978

Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School
Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Budget, 2023–2024 School Year *(continued)*

**FISCAL YEAR 2024
BUDGET SUMMARY**

	FINAL <i>FY2023</i>	PROPOSED <i>FY2024</i>	DIFF	% Change
Net School Spending	27,936,176	29,486,021	1,549,845	5.55%
Transportation	2,315,720	2,389,080	83,360	3.60%
Above Net School Spending	60,000	150,000	90,000	150.00%
Capital Budget – Equipment	435,000	490,000	55,000	12.64%
Vehicles	50,000	10,000	(40,000)	-80.00%
BONDS (Principal & Interest)	0	0	0	0.00%
Total Budget	\$30,796,896	\$32,535,101	\$1,738,205	5.64%
Less Revenues: Estimated Ch. 70	17,220,222	18,318,704	1,098,482	6.38%
REQUIRED MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION	\$10,715,954	\$11,167,317	\$451,363	4.21%
Transportation & Other Operating Budget	\$2,375,720	\$2,549,080	\$173,360	7.30%
Less: Estimated Transportation Aid	1,549,256	1,700,000	150,744	9.7%
Regional Transportation Fund	75,000	75,000	0	0.0%
Excess & Deficiency	375,000	250,000	(125,000)	-33.3%
NET TRANSPORTATION & OTHER OPERATING	\$378,464	\$524,080	\$147,616	39.21%
Capital Budget – (Equipment & Vehicles)	\$485,000	\$500,000	\$15,000	3.09%
Less: Excess & Deficiency	225,000	200,000	(25,000)	-11.1%
NET CAPITAL ASSESSMENT	\$260,000	\$300,000	\$40,000	15.38%
BONDS	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Less: School Building Authority Aid	0	0	0	0.0%
NET BONDS	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
TOTAL ASSESSMENT (All Budgets)	\$11,352,418	\$11,981,387	\$638,979	5.63%



What we know today as the Petersham Center School opened anew in 1906 as the Petersham Agricultural School. The new School represented the beginning of consolidating the one-room District Schoolhouses spread across town neighborhoods.

The School was designed by architect Edmund Willson who also designed the 1891 Memorial Library on the town common. Together the two buildings function as siblings, bookends holding the town center – each showcasing the beauty and strength of Petersham field stones in a pointed effort of the times to keep safe all that is important within – young scholars! books! – combined with the lightness of soaring glass windows indicating keen acknowledgment of the importance of sun and brightness for places of learning, enrichment, and to let the imagination sail on.

The image here is from circa 1909 and shows students and teachers learning and working in gardens near what is today's gymnasium. Agricultural studies were a critical part of the curriculum and along with classroom sciences, included hands-on gardening and fruit tree nurturing and pruning.

Over time the school became the Petersham High School then the Petersham Center School. It has served the community well all these many years; most recently, about twenty years ago, the School building went thru a thoughtful expansion and renovation in 2004 to address contemporary needs with thanks to architects Greenberg-Bannister; the town's school building committee, administration & staff of that time; the State's school construction program, and, importantly, the Petersham voters who supported long-term borrowing.

Today, along with the playground area shown on the cover, the Warrington Baseball Field is home to practice and games through the year; the soccer fields are used by leagues and students. Pickleball and basketball games fill out the sports roster for all ages, and the general public enjoys walking the School grounds after hours. COURTESY OF PETERSHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY



SPECIAL & ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
PETERSHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2023
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.
Please arrive a little early to check in, get seated, and
achieve a quorum so the Meeting can begin on time.
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
3 South Main Street, Post Office Box 486
Petersham, Massachusetts 01366-0486
