



TOWN OF PETERSHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

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**Report of the Petersham Advisory Finance Committee  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023**

**Selectboard Warrants for Special & Annual Town Meeting  
FOR JUNE 6, 2022**



## ON THE COVER

### A small structure, a big impact

The Petersham Bandstand on the Common is a good example of how a fine, little structure placed in the right spot can have a profound impact on life. Bandstands and gazebos are sprinkled across America's public spaces offering a simple and typically elegant place to elevate and enjoy life's experiences.

Gatherings of all sort have found a welcome home at the Petersham Bandstand — Concerts, memorial services, holiday events, special community events of every stripe, weddings, graduation and prom portrait days, birthdays, reunions, meetings, little ones joyfully running about, and just simple lunch & conversation have all graced the Bandstand thru its 108 years.

Petersham's Bandstand was built in 1914 thanks to donations from private citizens. Boston-based architect John Ames was contracted for its design. Along with determining just the right size and aesthetics for the Bandstand, the architect and clientele emphasized acoustics as by that time the Petersham Brass Band had been providing community concerts since 1885.

Prior to the current 1914 structure, a high open platform bandstand was located on the Common near the corner of Common & West Streets; users, including the Petersham Brass Band members with their variety of instruments, climbed a tall ladder set thru a trap door.

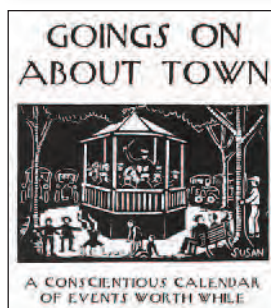
Even little public buildings such as the Bandstand require care and maintenance. Petersham residents and taxpayers have been mindful of keeping this structure in good stead including its most recent repairs in Fall 2021.



Nestled under trees surrounding the Bandstand are memorial stones and flags honoring those who served in times of war. Individual plaques honor those who died serving the country.



The community is very grateful to the Petersham Lions for their annual care of the public benches on the Common. In Spring 2022 the Lions generously accomplished full burnishing and repairs of each bench.

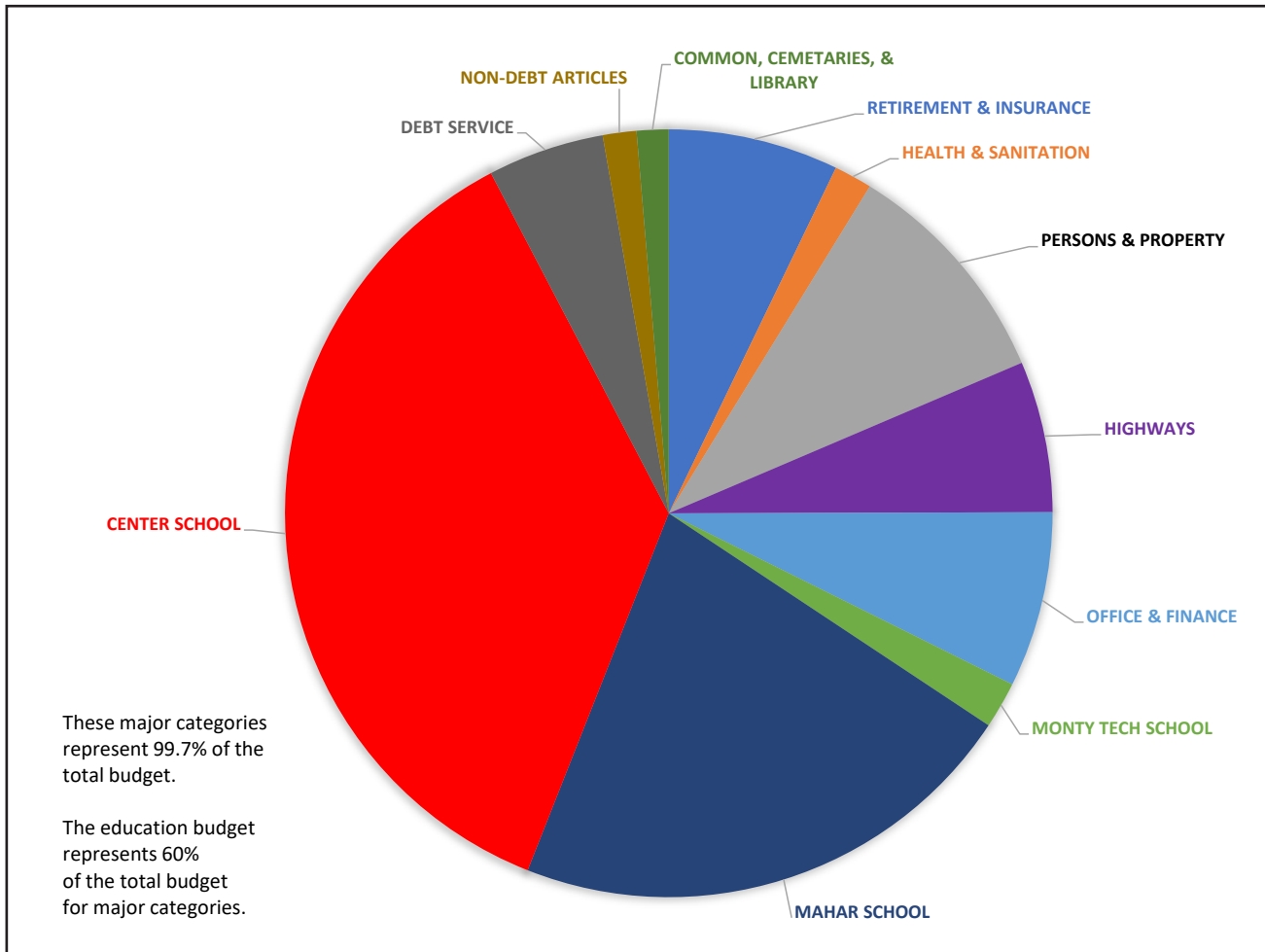


The Bandstand has inspired many artists over the years. A small sampling here includes a watercolor by Barbara Ellis, a painting by Dorothy Eaton (on display in Town Hall as a loan from the Buell Family), a *New Yorker* magazine illustration by Susan Flint, and a 1969 *Yankee Magazine* cover image by Maxwell Mays.

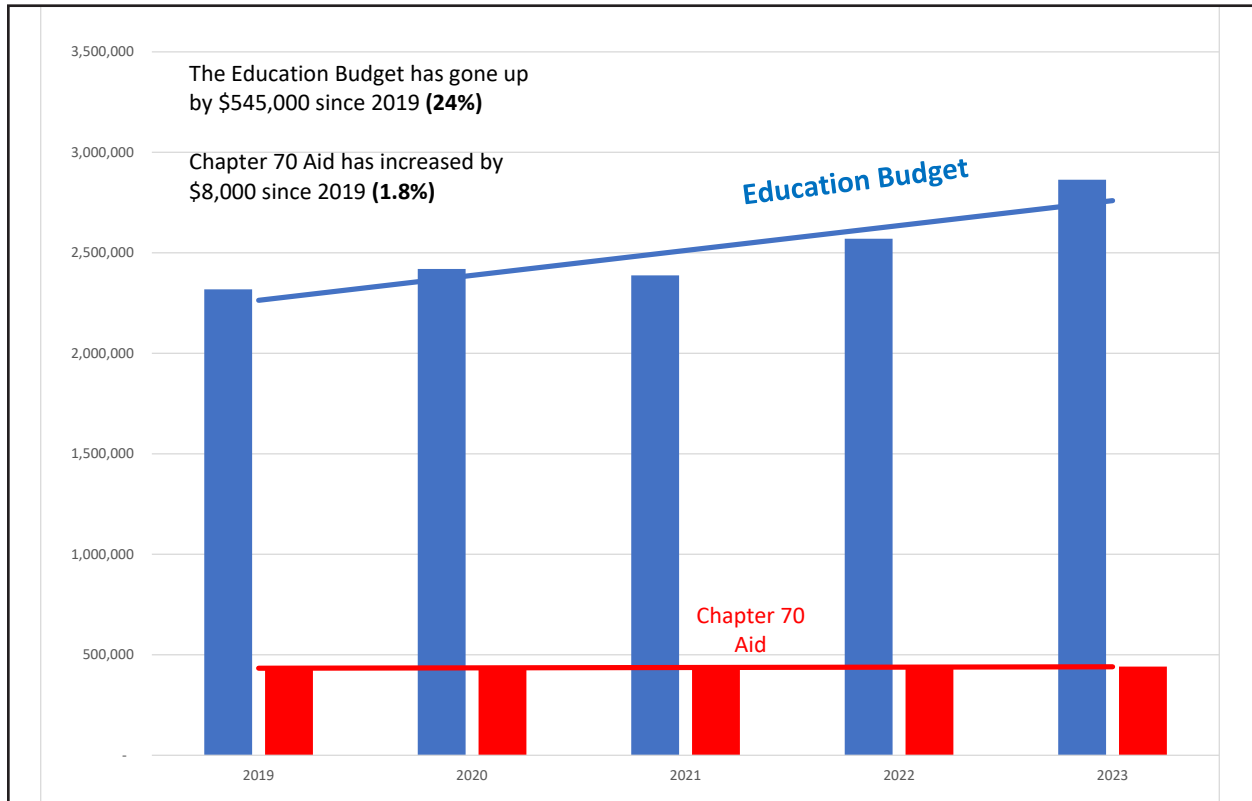
# Financial Charts

Prepared by the Petersham Advisory Finance Committee

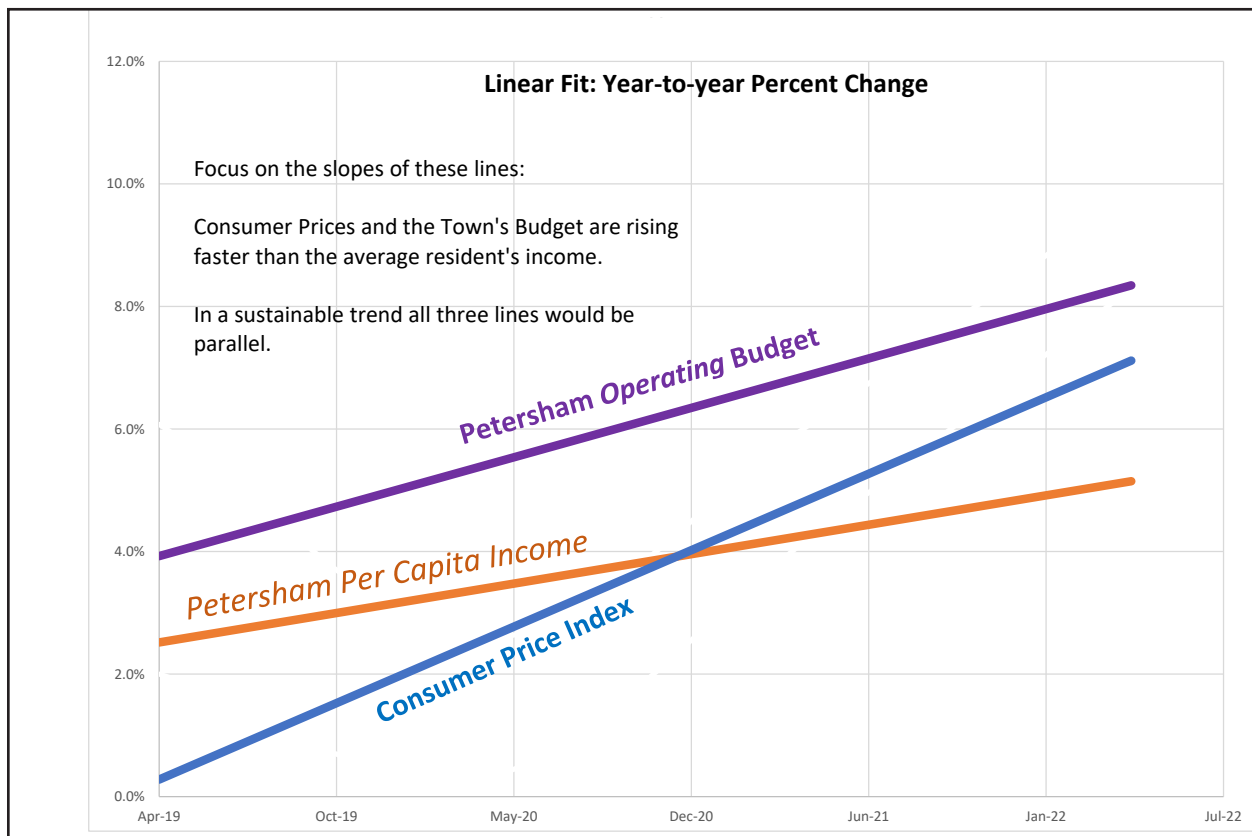
## Petersham Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Budget by Major Budget Categories



## Education Budget and State Chapter 70 School Aid



## Trends in Affordability Indicators





TOWN OF PETERSHAM, MASSACHUSETTS  
**Budget Report of the Petersham Advisory Finance Committee**  
**FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023**

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**Selectboard Warrants for Special & Annual Town Meeting**  
**FOR JUNE 6, 2022**

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## --Glossary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Stabilization Fund:** This is an amount of money that the town sets aside to use if there are emergency needs or if there are capital outlay expenses that need to be covered. It can only be appropriated at a Town Meeting by a 2/3 vote of the voters present at the meeting.

# Town of Petersham Annual Town Meeting ~ June 6, 2022

Report to the Voters from the Advisory Finance Committee  
 Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023)

Dear Voters, Please read this Report prior to the Special & Annual Town Meetings at Petersham Town Hall on **Monday, June 6, 2022 at 7:00 PM**. When questions arise, the Advisory Finance Committee, Selectboard, School Committees, and/or others, will answer your questions as best they can.

The sum of the GENERAL BUDGET (Sheets shown on Report pages 12– 17) and the Special Articles (shown on Report page 18) is the TOTAL PETERSHAM BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 and is shown in summary below. **The Advisory Finance Committee has drafted a TOTAL PETERSHAM BUDGET that is under Proposition 2-1/2, and will NOT require an override election if all our recommendations are followed.** *Respectfully submitted,*

Richard Cavanaugh, *Chair*  
 Mark Bishop, *Vice Chair*  
 Sandra Page  
 Jim Dowd  
 Tally Lent

## SUMMARY TOTAL PETERSHAM BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023

		<b>FY2023 AFC Recommended</b>
<b><u>TOWN EXPENSES:</u></b>		
Selectboard's Budget - Appropriation	pp. 12–17	\$1,622,621
Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District - Appropriation	pp. 17 & pp. 36–37	1,034,949
Montachusett Regional Tech School District - Appropriation	pp. 17 & pp. 40	93,768
Petersham Center School - Appropriation	pp. 17 & pp. 38–39	1,734,698
<b>TOTAL GENERAL BUDGET</b>		<b>4,486,036</b>
<b>TOTAL ATM ARTICLES</b>		<b>302,248</b>
<b>TOTAL PETERSHAM BUDGET</b>		<b>\$4,788,284</b>
<b><u>TOWN REVENUE:</u></b>		
*Massachusetts State Aid - Includes Chapter 70 Reimbursement of	<b>\$441,433</b>	\$677,375
Less: School Choice Outgoing		(37,101)
Estimated Local Receipts		802,230
Stabilization Fund		
Free Cash		15,793
Overlay Excess		116,300
Specified Funds (including Broadband Enterprise)		39,600
Prop. 2-1/2 Levy Limit	\$3,033,774 * Tax Levy <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">100.00%</span>	<b>\$3,033,774</b>
Debt Exclusion - Petersham Center School Construction	<b>102,355</b>	
Debt Exclusion - Ralph C. Mahar RSD Construction	<b>22,461</b>	
Debt Exclusion - Nichewaug Hazardous Materials Abatement	<b>41,150</b>	
Debt Exclusion – Fire Dept. Truck	<b>39,600</b>	
Maximum Tax Levy Under Prop 2-1/2 (with Debt Exclusion)		3,239,340
Less: Overlay Reserve		(25,000)
<b>ESTIMATED TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION</b>		<b>\$3,199,087</b>
<b>TOTAL POTENTIAL REVENUE AT THE LEVY LIMIT</b>		<b>\$4,828,537</b>
<b>AVAILABLE TAX LEVY NOT USED</b>		<b>\$40,253</b>

# Estimated Cherry Sheet for the Town of Petersham

	FY2023	FY2022	FY2021
<b>Education</b>	<b>Senate Preliminary</b>		
Chapter 70	441,433	437,533	435,523
State Fiscal Stabilization Fund		-	-
School Transportation		-	-
School Lunch		-	-
<b>Sub-Total Education Items</b>	<b>441,433</b>	<b>437,533</b>	<b>435,523</b>
Change from last yr>	0.9%	0.5%	0.0%
<b>General Government</b>			
Lottery		-	-
General Aid/Supplemental Lottery		-	-
Unrestricted General Government Aid	132,801	125,997	121,736
Annual Formula Local Aid		-	-
Room Tax Increase		-	-
Highway Fund		-	-
Veterans' Benefits	478	438	1,535
Exemptions: Vets, Blind & Surviving Spouse, Elderly	11,759	13,577	7,306
State Owned Land	87,039	67,809	62,697
Public Libraries	4,371	3,724	3,734
<b>Sub-Total General Government</b>	<b>236,448</b>	<b>211,545</b>	<b>197,008</b>
Change from last yr>	11.8%	7.4%	1.1%
<b>Total Estimated Cherry Sheet Receipts</b>	<b>677,881</b>	<b>649,078</b>	<b>632,531</b>
Net Charges	(506)	(1,343)	(1,336)
<b>Total State Aid</b>	<b>677,375</b>	<b>647,735</b>	<b>631,195</b>
Change from last yr>	4.6%	2.6%	0.4%
School Choice Sending	(37,101)	(15,000)	(15,000)
School Choice Incoming	327,361	360,068	360,068
<b>Local Receipts</b>	<b>Other Department Revenue</b>		
Note	<b>ESTIMATED 2023</b>	<b>ESTIMATED 2022</b>	<b>ACTUAL 2021</b>
Motor Vehicle Excise	185,700	185,700	185,730
Penalties & Interest on Taxes & Excise	16,700	16,700	16,791
Payments in Lieu of Taxes - DCR	500,000	500,000	500,027
Payments in Lieu of Taxes - Heywood	30,000	30,000	30,000
Fees	180	180	186
Rentals			
Other Department Revenue (including Transfer Station Fees)	43,000	43,000	43,058
Licenses & Permits	15,800	15,800	15,841
Fines & Forfeits	2,700	2,700	2,788
Investment Income	1,650	1,650	1,689
Misc. Recuring	2,000	2,000	2,337
Misc. Non recurring	4,500	4,500	9,695
<b>Total Local Receipts</b>	<b>802,230</b>	<b>802,230</b>	<b>808,140</b>
Change from last yr>	0.0%	-0.7%	-5.8%



# Summary of Current Town Loan Maturity Dates

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Per Town Treasurer

FISCAL YEAR  
of Loan Maturity

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## 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  
Approve 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 – #1 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.

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

For the Special and Annual Town Meetings on June 6, 2022 / *For Fiscal Year 2023*

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## **I. Introduction**

A number of unusual challenges presented themselves in the course of preparing the budget for fiscal year 2023. As outlined below, the Advisory Finance Committee is making its recommendations contained in this report in response to those circumstances. Two of the major challenges this budget season include the following:

### **A. Increase in Petersham's Mahar Regional School District Assessment**

Due to an increase in the number of Petersham students enrolled in the Mahar Regional School District and lower student enrollments from other towns, Petersham's assessment rose 20%, an increase of \$172,266, over last year's assessment. To put this increase in perspective, over the last ten years, Petersham has not experienced an annual increase of this magnitude resulting from increases in Petersham's student enrollment and decreases in student enrollment from other towns in the district.

At the outset of the budget deliberations, the increased Mahar assessment initially signaled a possible Proposition 2½ override and prompted the review of various cost-saving measures and the identification of possible sources of available funds to offset this increase. Among other things, the Selectboard communicated with the Board of Assessors to determine the amounts of funds that had accumulated in the Assessor's Overlay Excess Account. Over the last number of years, the town budgeted \$50,000 annually for the Overlay Excess Account to accommodate any granted abatements and exemptions and in anticipation of a resolution of litigation commenced by utilities regarding the taxation of utility poles. The Board of Assessors reported that there is roughly \$269,000 in the Overlay Excess Account. Abatements and exemptions granted over the last five years did not exceed \$22,000 in any given year. As set forth further in this budget report, the Advisory Finance Committee recommends utilizing \$235,000 from the Overlay Excess Account to offset the increase in this year's Mahar Regional School District assessment and for other needs.

### **B. Shortfall of \$477,533 in the amount appropriated for the Petersham Center School at the FY22 Annual Town Meeting on June 21, 2021**

As part of the deliberations of the Capital Improvement Planning Committee in April 2022, a question arose as to why the MA Department of Revenue reported that the town had roughly \$678,000 in unused levy capacity, i.e., unused tax potential, rather than \$246,474 as projected in the FY22 budget. Members of the Selectboard and the Advisory Finance Committee investigated this discrepancy and determined that while the FY22 Budget accurately forecast revenue and spending, the actual motion regarding Article 19 pertaining to the Petersham Center School brought before the Annual Town Meeting contained an amount that did not include the amount the town receives in Chapter 70 funds for education. The Budget Report of the Petersham Advisory Finance Committee correctly set the appropriation for the Petersham Center School at \$1,645,350. The motion put before the Town Meeting was for \$1,207,817. The difference between these two numbers, \$437,533, is the amount that the town received in Chapter 70 reimbursement.

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Part of the confusion regarding these figures stems from the past practice of the Petersham Center School stating its budget request as its total budget minus the amount the town receives in Chapter 70 funds. Neither the Selectboard, the Petersham Advisory Finance Committee, or any other town official or personnel caught the error in the motion at the time of the Annual Town Meeting.

Relying on the dollar figure stated and approved in the motion for Article 19 as required and not in the budget report, the Board of Assessors annual recap work resulted in a lower tax rate creating a tax break for property owners in the second semi-annual tax bill for FY22 and the upcoming preliminary tax bill for FY23.

The town is prohibited from deficit spending in connection with the schools, so the Town must use available funds to make up the \$437,533 shortfall. As set forth further in the budget report, the Advisory Finance Committee recommends utilizing a portion of the Stabilization Fund to fill this gap at the Special Town Meeting.

## **II. Special Town Meeting**

**Article 2** (Nichewaug Demolition): As a result of a determination by bond counsel that the town failed to have the Nichewaug demolition brought before the Capital Improvement Planning Committee (CIPC) prior to the December 6, 2021 Special Town Meeting vote and in not timely issuing a postcard notice, this Article is again brought before the town, this time having been approved by the CIPC and with the requisite postcard having been mailed. Passage of this Article will have no impact on the town's FY23 budget, but for the reasons set forth in its report for the Special Town Meeting held on December 6, 2021, the AFC recommends its passage.

**Article 3** (Retirement of Chief of Police) involves fulfilling the town's contractual obligations stemming from the retirement of Petersham's Police Chief, and the AFC recommends its passage.

**Article 4** (Snow and Ice Account Deficit) involves eliminating the FY22 Snow and Ice Account deficit, and the AFC recommends its passage.

**Article 5** (Petersham Center School Shortfall) involves meeting the town's obligation to fund the remaining amount of the FY22 appropriation for the Petersham Center School, and the AFC recommends its passage.

**Article 6** (Changes in Chapter 90 Reimbursement creating a deficit) stems from mid year changes the Commonwealth has made to its model for use of Chapter 90 highway funds and for other necessary highway salary adjustments, and AFC recommends its passage.

## **III. Annual Town Meeting – The FY2023 Operating Budget**

Overall, the town's general operating budget (not including Special Articles) is \$401,423 more than last year, an increase of about 9.8%, broken down as follows:

*> continued on next page*

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

For Special and Annual Town Meeting on June 6, 2022 / For Fiscal Year 2023

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1. The Petersham Center School (PCS) budget request for Fiscal Year 2023 is \$1,734,698. This represents an increase of \$89,348 or a 5.4% rise in Petersham's assessment from the prior year.
2. The Ralph C. Mahar Regional School (Mahar) budget request for Fiscal Year 2023 is \$1,034,949. This represents an increase of \$172,266, a 20% increase in Petersham's assessment from the prior year.
3. The Montachusett Technical School District budget request for Fiscal Year 2023 is \$93,768. This represents an increase of \$31,907, a 51% rise in Petersham's assessment from the prior year, largely due to an increased enrollment of Petersham students.
4. The Selectboard's Budget request for Fiscal Year 2023 is \$1,622,621. This represents an increase of \$108,248, a 7.1% rise in the appropriation from the prior year.

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

The total amount requested for Special Articles is \$302,248. This represents a decrease of \$136,473, a 31% decrease in the appropriation from FY22. Last year's appropriation was \$438,721. Articles 21 through 25 pertain to ongoing debt obligations and the AFC recommends their passage.

**Article 26** (Board of Assessors' Full Measure and List of Real Estate and Personal Property) is for year three of a five-year commitment to comply with state law, and the AFC recommends its passage.

**Article 27** (Deposit into the Cemetery Repair Fund) does not involve a tax appropriation, and the AFC recommends its passage.

**Article 28** (Reserve Fund) earmarks \$30,000 for the Reserve Fund for FY2023, and the AFC recommends its passage.

**Article 29** (Brass Band Concerts) raises and appropriates \$1,800 for six (6) concerts, and the AFC identifies this Article 29 as voter preference.

**Article 30** (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 31** (Stabilization Fund) authorizes the depositing of funds into the Stabilization Fund. Should part of the Stabilization Fund be used to meet the town's obligations as part of the Special Town Meeting, the AFC recommends taking no action on this article at this time.

**Article 32** (Zoning By-laws Change Regarding Selectboard), **Article 33** (General By-laws Change Regarding Animal Control Officer), **Article 34** (General By-laws Regarding Statutory Reference Regarding Animal Control Officer), **Article 35** (General By-laws Change Regarding Constable), **Article 36**, (Zoning By-laws Changes Regarding Section 18. Solar Electric Installations) are not budget-related items, and the AFC has identified them as voter preference.

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The AFC has identified **Article 37** (Citizen’s Petition Article Regarding the Petersham Friday Market) as voter preference.

The AFC has identified **Article 38** (Citizen’s Petition Article Regarding the State Flag and Seal of Massachusetts) as voter preference.

Free Cash available this year is set at \$138,669. With respect to the Special Articles of the Special Town Meeting, we have recommended using \$18,098 to go toward fulfilling the town’s obligations concerning the retirement of the Chief of Police, \$87,569 to go toward the PCS Deficit, and \$17,209 to pay the shortfall created by the commonwealth’s changes in chapter 90 reimbursements. With respect to the Special Articles of the Annual Town Meeting, we have recommended using the remaining \$15,793 in Free Cash to go toward the debt service for the Mahar RSD Construction loan.

The amount available this year from the Assessor’s Excess Overlay Account is \$225,000. With respect to the Special Articles of the Special Town Meeting, we have recommended using \$8,142 to go toward fulfilling the town’s obligations concerning the retirement of the Chief of Police, \$31,635 to close the FY22 Snow Removal account, and \$78,923 to go toward the PCS deficit. With respect to the Special Articles of the Annual Town Meeting, we have recommended using \$6,668 toward the debt service for the Mahar RSD Construction loan, \$41,150 toward debt service for the Nichewaug Hazardous Material Abatement loan, \$39,600 for the debt service of the Fire Department Pumper Truck, and \$28,882 for the debt service for the Broadband make-ready (BB1) loan.

## **Conclusion**

The Fiscal Year 2023 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 increase in the Mahar RSD assessment and the PCS shortfall described above, you will see a surplus at the bottom of the Report page of approximately \$40,253.

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 2023

	SHEET	Requested 2023	<b>RECOMMENDED 2023</b>	Budget 2022	Budget 2021	Budget 2020
Moderator — Salary	1	-	-	-	-	-
Moderator Expenses	1	70	<b>70</b>	70	70	70
Selectboard – Salaries	2	9,579	<b>9,579</b>	9,343	8,269	8,065
Part-time Office Assistant – Salary	2	8,303	<b>8,303</b>	8,100	14,350	14,350
Part-time Office - Floating Sec.-Salary	2	-	-	-	-	-
Expenses	2	4,400	<b>4,400</b>	4,250	4,280	4,280
Legal Fees	3	12,000	<b>12,000</b>	7,000	8,000	7,000
Medicare	4	28,605	<b>28,605</b>	25,954	25,637	23,705
Unemployment	5	-	-	-	-	-
Administrative Coordinator – Salary	6	23,646	<b>23,646</b>	23,069	22,506	21,957
Administrative Coordinator – Overtime	7	-	-	-	-	-
Software Maintenance	8	-	-	-	-	-
Central Telephone System	9	13,500	<b>13,500</b>	13,500	12,500	13,500
Audit	10	15,000	<b>15,000</b>	-	-	-
Town Hall & Office Building Maintenance	11	4,900	<b>4,900</b>	4,500	4,500	4,500
Treasurer – Salary	12	20,237	<b>20,237</b>	19,743	18,261	17,815
Treasurer Expenses	12	7,985	<b>7,985</b>	7,885	7,610	6,585
Treasurer Account Bank Fees	13	1	<b>1</b>	1	1	1
Payroll Processing	14	3,500	<b>3,500</b>	3,500	3,500	3,500
Town Accountant – Salary	15	22,630	<b>22,630</b>	22,078	21,539	21,013
Accounting Clerk – Salary	15	4,706	<b>4,706</b>	2,265	2,209	2,155
Accountant Expenses	15	7,973	<b>7,973</b>	7,533	7,354	6,271
Printing (Town Reports, By-Laws, Valuation Books, Street Lists, etc.)	16	1,450	<b>1,450</b>	1,450	1,450	1,750
Tax Collector – Salary	17	15,187	<b>15,187</b>	14,816	14,454	14,101
Tax Collector – Expenses	17	18,266	<b>18,266</b>	18,266	18,266	18,066
Tax Collector – Account Bank Fees	18	1	<b>1</b>	1	1	-

**Town of Petersham – General Budget Fiscal Year 2023** *(continued)*

	SHEET	Requested 2023	<b>RECOMMENDED 2023</b>	Budget 2022	Budget 2021	Budget 2020	
Board of Assessors – Salaries	19	9,579	<b>9,579</b>	9,343	9,114	8,891	
Assistant Assessor – Salary	19	37,383	<b>37,383</b>	36,471	35,581	34,713	
Expenses	19	28,151	<b>28,151</b>	26,971	22,112	19,910	
Town Clerk – Salary	20	13,337	<b>13,337</b>	13,011	11,694	11,408	
Town Clerk Part-time Assistant – Salary	20	738	<b>738</b>	720	702	684	
Town Clerk – Expenses	20	3,284	<b>3,284</b>	2,984	2,984	2,959	
Software & Software Maintenance	20	2,290	<b>2,290</b>	2,290	1,434	1,434	
Land Court Fees	21	1	<b>1</b>	1	1	1	
Vital Statistics	22	100	<b>100</b>	100	100	100	
Election & Registration – Salaries	23	9,000	<b>9,000</b>	3,700	9,500	7,000	
Election & Registration – Expenses	23	2,200	<b>2,200</b>	1,800	1,800	1,725	
Planning Board Admin – Salary	24	-	-	-	-	-	
Planning Board – Expenses	24	-	-	-	-	-	
Historic Commission – Expenses	25	85	<b>85</b>	85	85	85	
Historic District Commission – Expenses	26	252	<b>252</b>	252	252	252	
Advisory Finance Committee – Expenses	27	500	<b>500</b>	500	450	505	
Town Hall & Town Office – Expenses	28	22,460	<b>22,460</b>	22,460	23,896	24,076	
Zoning Board of Appeals - Salaries	29	-	-	-	500	513	
Zoning Board of Appeals - Expenses	29	350	<b>350</b>	350	350	460	
Zoning Board – Consultant/Expenses	29	500	<b>500</b>	500	-	-	
Computer Service	62	1,000	<b>1,000</b>	1,000	1,000	1,000	
<b>TOTAL GENERAL OFFICE &amp; FINANCE:</b>		<b>353,149</b>	<b>353,149</b>	<b>315,862</b>	<b>316,312</b>	<b>304,400</b>	
		Change over previous year>>	11.80%	11.8%	-0.1%	3.9%	-10.5%

## Town of Petersham – General Budget Fiscal Year 2022 *(continued)*

	SHEET	Requested 2023	<b>RECOMMENDED 2023</b>	Budget 2022	Budget 2021	Budget 2020
<b><u>PROTECTION OF PERSONS &amp; PROPERTY</u></b>						
Building Inspector – Salary	32	-	-	-	-	-
Building Inspector – Clerical Asst. Salary	32	5,117	<b>5,117</b>	3,328	3,062	2,987
Building Inspector – Contracted Expenses	32	11,580	<b>11,580</b>	11,371	10,966	9,766
Police Department:						
Chief – Salary	33	91,225	<b>91,225</b>	83,197	81,167	79,187
Full-time Officer – Salary	33	60,129	<b>60,129</b>	58,662	57,231	55,835
Full-time Officer – Overtime Wages	33	6,153	<b>6,153</b>	6,002	5,855	5,712
Part-time Officers – Salaries	33	53,473	<b>53,473</b>	53,473	50,357	49,128
Officers' Training	33	9,916	<b>9,916</b>	9,674	9,438	9,207
Police Dept. – Expenses	33	47,152	<b>47,152</b>	41,756	40,665	40,195
Fire Department:						
Chief – Salary	34	6,390	<b>6,390</b>	6,234	4,082	3,982
Fire Dept. Members – Salaries	34	33,984	<b>33,984</b>	25,910	25,278	24,855
Fire Dept. – Expenses	34	32,533	<b>32,533</b>	30,425	31,625	31,125
Public Safety Communications						
Radio Repair	35	1,800	<b>1,800</b>	1,800	1,800	1,800
IMC & LEAPS	35	4,865	<b>4,865</b>	4,705	4,705	3,610
Forest Warden	36	31	<b>31</b>	30	27	26
Tree Warden – Salary	37	3,231	<b>3,231</b>	3,152	3,152	3,075
Tree Warden – Expenses	37	685	<b>685</b>	685	685	685
Animal Control – Salary	38	3,321	<b>3,321</b>	3,239	3,159	3,081
Animal Control – Expenses	38	1,925	<b>1,925</b>	1,925	1,925	1,425
Insurance – Property, Liability, Workers' Comp, IOD	39	89,131	<b>89,131</b>	85,392	85,392	83,077
Insurance – Nichewaug Inn & Academy property	39	-	-	-	-	5,720
Emergency Management – Salary & Expenses	40	4,479	<b>4,479</b>	4,444	4,410	5,516
Conservation Commission	41	1,500	<b>1,500</b>	0	-	-
Hearing Enforcement Officer	64	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL PROTECTION PERSONS &amp; PROPERTY:</b>		<b>468,620</b>	<b>468,620</b>	<b>435,404</b>	<b>424,981</b>	<b>419,994</b>
		<i>Change over previous year&gt;&gt;</i>	<b>7.6%</b>	2.5%	1.2%	2.6%



## Town of Petersham – General Budget Fiscal Year 2022 *(continued)*

	SHEET	Requested 2023	<b>RECOMMENDED 2023</b>	Budget 2022	Budget 2021	Budget 2020
<b><u>HEALTH AND SANITATION</u></b>						
Administration and Health						
Board of Health – Salaries	42	561	<b>561</b>	545	531	517
Board of Health – Admin. Assistant Salary	42	7,867	<b>7,867</b>	7,675	7,253	7,076
Board of Health – Expenses	42	2,700	<b>2,700</b>	2,700	2,700	2,700
Inspector of Animals - Salary	43	2,789	<b>2,789</b>	2,720	2,653	2,587
Transfer Station Operations	65	62,800	<b>62,800</b>	56,267	52,176	52,087
<b>TOTAL HEALTH AND SANITATION:</b>		<b>76,717</b>	<b>76,717</b>	<b>69,907</b>	<b>65,313</b>	<b>64,967</b>
<i>Change over previous year&gt;&gt;</i>		9.74%	<b>9.7%</b>	7.0%	0.5%	1.2%
<b><u>HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT</u></b>						
Superintendent – Salary	44	56,781	<b>56,781</b>	55,396	54,044	52,725
Highway Dept Other – Salaries	44	110,036	<b>110,036</b>	107,351	100,541	100,373
Town Barn Account – Expenses	45	8,150	<b>8,150</b>	8,150	8,150	8,150
General Highways – Expenses	46	59,800	<b>59,800</b>	53,000	55,000	50,000
Snow & Ice Removal	47	60,000	<b>60,000</b>	60,000	60,000	60,000
Street Lights	48	9,000	<b>9,000</b>	8,500	7,500	7,500
<b>TOTAL HIGHWAY DEPT.:</b>		<b>303,767</b>	<b>303,767</b>	<b>292,397</b>	<b>285,235</b>	<b>278,748</b>
<i>Change over previous year&gt;&gt;</i>		3.89%	<b>3.9%</b>	2.5%	2.3%	1.9%
<b><u>CHARITIES &amp; VETERANS BENEFITS</u></b>						
District Veteran Agent – District Allocation	49	3,928	<b>3,928</b>	3,839	3,759	3,684
Veterans – Benefits	49	10,000	<b>10,000</b>	10,000	10,000	9,000
<b>TOTAL VETERANS BENEFITS:</b>		<b>13,928</b>	<b>13,928</b>	<b>13,839</b>	<b>13,759</b>	<b>12,684</b>
<i>Change over previous year&gt;&gt;</i>		0.65%	<b>0.6%</b>	0.6%	8.5%	1.6%

## Town of Petersham – General Budget Fiscal Year 2023 *(continued)*

	SHEET	Requested 2023	<b>RECOMMENDED 2023</b>	Budget 2022	Budget 2021	Budget 2020
<b><u>UNCLASSIFIED</u></b>						
Library	50	9,910	<b>9,910</b>	9,790	9,660	9,550
Bandstand Lighting	51	250	<b>250</b>	250	250	325
Town Clock	52	75	<b>75</b>	73	73	73
County Retirement	53	204,612	<b>204,612</b>	188,910	174,811	155,557
Memorial Day	55	600	<b>600</b>	600	600	645
Care of Common	56	9,945	<b>9,945</b>	7,863	7,863	7,863
Interest – Includes Broadband Loan Interest	57	-	<b>-</b>	-	-	-
Cemetery Commission – Salary	59	822	<b>822</b>	801	781	761
Cemetery Commission – Cemetery Care Contract	59	21,822	<b>21,822</b>	21,822	20,985	20,985
Cemetery Commission – Expenses	59	3,000	<b>3,000</b>	3,000	3,000	3,000
Healthcare Insurance – For full-time employees	60	76,370	<b>76,370</b>	71,041	70,141	68,813
Healthcare Insurance – For retirees	63	61,383	<b>61,383</b>	58,460	56,485	54,050
High Tree Work – Pruning, Removal, Planting	61	15,000	<b>15,000</b>	27,000	6,000	27,000
Open Space and Recreation	66	1,550	<b>1,550</b>	550	50	900
Council on Aging	67	1,100	<b>1,100</b>	1,100	1,100	1,100
<b>TOTAL UNCLASSIFIED:</b>		<b>406,439</b>	<b>406,439</b>	<b>391,260</b>	<b>351,799</b>	<b>350,622</b>
<i>Change over previous year&gt;&gt;</i>		3.88%	<b>3.9%</b>	11.2%	0.3%	4.0%
<b>TOTAL NON-EDUCATION BUDGET:</b>		<b>1,622,621</b>	<b>1,622,621</b>	<b>1,518,669</b>	<b>1,457,399</b>	<b>1,431,415</b>
<i>Change over previous year&gt;&gt;</i>		6.84%	<b>6.8%</b>	4.2%	1.8%	-0.4%

**Town of Petersham – General Budget Fiscal Year 2023** (continued)

	Requested 2023	<b>RECOMMENDED 2023</b>	Budget 2022	Budget 2021	Budget 2020
<b><u>EDUCATION BUDGET</u></b>					
<b>RALPH C. MAHAR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT</b>	<b>1,034,949</b>	<b>1,034,949</b>	<b>862,683</b>	<b>792,500</b>	<b>885,870</b>
	20.0%	<b>20.0%</b>	8.9%	-10.5%	15.3%
<b>MONTACHUSETT TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT</b>	<b>93,768</b>	<b>93,768</b>	<b>61,907</b>	<b>39,037</b>	<b>14,686</b>
	51.5%	<b>51.5%</b>	58.6%	165.8%	-63.7%
<b>PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL</b>					
Regular Education and General Expense	1,611,546	<b>1,611,546</b>	1,492,874	1,542,027	1,583,010
Special Needs Education Expense	508,513	<b>508,513</b>	545,476	491,083	425,740
<b>PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL BUDGET TOTAL</b>	<b>2,120,059</b>	<b>2,120,059</b>	<b>2,038,350</b>	<b>2,033,110</b>	<b>2,008,750</b>
Less: Known Income + Choice carryover	(58,000)	<b>(58,000)</b>	(32,932)	(112,276)	(108,949)
Less: Incoming School Choice	(327,361)	<b>(327,361)</b>	(360,068)	(364,556)	(321,035)
Reserve – from Incoming School Choice*	-	-	-	-	(59,432)
<b>PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL APPROPRIATION</b>	<b>1,734,698</b>	<b>1,734,698</b>	<b>1,645,350</b>	<b>1,556,278</b>	<b>1,519,334</b>
	5.4%	<b>5.4%</b>	5.7%	2.4%	0.7%
<b>TOTAL EDUCATION BUDGET APPROPRIATION:</b>	<b>2,863,415</b>	<b>2,863,415</b>	<b>2,569,940</b>	<b>2,387,815</b>	<b>2,419,890</b>
<b>▶ GRAND TOTAL GENERAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>4,486,036</b>	<b>4,486,036</b>	<b>4,084,313</b>	<b>3,851,305</b>	<b>3,754,358</b>
Grand Total General Budget -Change over previous year >>	9.84%	<b>9.8%</b>	6.1%	2.6%	6.1%
ALL 3 school budgets (change over previous year) >>	11.4%	<b>11.4%</b>	7.6%	-1.3%	4.3%

## Town of Petersham Special Articles Fiscal Year 2022 Special Town Meeting

### FISCAL YEAR 2022 — 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 BoA Excess Overlay	REQUESTED AMOUNT
Police Chief Retirement	3	26,240		18,098				8,142	26,240
Snow & Ice Removal Deficit	4	37,635				1,000	5,000	31,635	37,635
Center School Deficit	5	437,533		87,569	268,841	700	1,500	78,923	437,533
Highway Dept. Wages Deficit	6	17,209		17,209					17,209
<b>TOTAL SPECIAL ARTICLES</b>		<b>\$518,617</b>		<b>\$122,876</b>	<b>\$268,841</b>	<b>\$1,700</b>	<b>\$6,500</b>	<b>\$118,700</b>	<b>\$518,617</b>

# Town of Petersham

## Special Articles Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Town Meeting

### FISCAL YEAR 2023 — RECOMMENDED ARTICLES AND FUNDING SOURCES

Description	ARTICLE #	TOTAL APPROPRIATE Recommended	RAISE BY TAXATION	From Available Funds	From Free Cash	From BoA Overlay Excess	From Broadband Enterprise	REQUESTED AMOUNT	Estimated Effect on Tax Rate *
Debt Service – Petersham Center School Construction	21 DE	102,355	92,755	9,600				102,355	0.51
Debt Service – Mahar RSD School Construction	22 DE	22,461			15,793	6,668		22,461	-
Debt Service – Nichewaug Hazardous Material Abatement	23 DE	41,150				41,150		41,150	-
Debt Service – Fire Department Pumper Truck	24 DE	39,600				39,600		39,600	-
Debt Service – Broadband Project Make-ready BB1	25	28,882				28,882		28,882	-
Assessors – Year 3 of 5 Cyclical Reassessment of Values	26	5,000	5,000					5,000	0.03
Reserve Fund	28	30,000	30,000					30,000	0.16
Petersham Brass Band Concerts	29	1,800	1,800					1,800	0.01
Broadband MLP Enterprise Fund	30	30,000					30,000	30,000	-
Citizen Petition Article – Friday Market Music Performances	37	1,000	1,000					1,000	0.01
<b>TOTAL ATM ARTICLES</b>		<b>\$302,248</b>	<b>\$130,555</b>	<b>\$9,600</b>	<b>\$15,793</b>	<b>\$116,300</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$302,248</b>	
<b>Proposed General Total Budget</b>		<b>\$4,486,036</b>						<b>\$4,486,036</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL BUDGET</b>		<b>\$4,788,284</b>						<b>\$4,788,284</b>	

\*Using the Assessor's FY2022 Recap Sheet, the total value of all (taxable) property in Petersham is \$183,651,119. A \$100,000 line item in the budget requires that \$0.545/1000 be raised to fund it if the item were to be funded with taxes. We recommend funding only part of these articles with taxation.

# MLP Board Broadband Enterprise Account Budgets For Fiscal Year 2022 and Projected Fiscal Year 2023

<b>MLP Board – Quarterly Subscribers' Fee Report For Fiscal Year 2021–2023 [projected]</b> @ MAY 2022					
<b>Year &amp; No. of Subscribers</b>	<b>Using a Monthly Subscriber's Fee of \$6.99 (throughout the year)</b>				
	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Quarter</b>	<b>YEAR-END TOTAL</b>
<b><u>YEAR ONE - FY2021</u></b> <b>START-UP YEAR</b> 150–420 subscribers x \$6.99 per mo.	\$ 1,610.68 <b>Actual</b>  @ 8/30/2020	\$ 4,547.35 <b>Actual</b>  @ 12/31/2020	\$ 7,755.36 <b>Actual</b>  @ 3/31/2020	\$ 7,510.00 <b>Actual</b>  @ 6/31//2021.	<b><u>FY 2021:</u></b> <b>\$ 21,423.</b> <b>ACTUAL</b>
<b>FY21 ACTUAL Running Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,610.38</b>	<b>\$ 6,158.03</b>	<b>\$ 13,913.39</b>	<b>\$ 21,423.39</b>	<b>ACTUAL \$21,423.39</b>
<b><u>YEAR TWO - FY2022</u></b> 420 +/- subscribers x \$6.99 per mo.	\$ 8,875.15 <b>Actual</b> @ 8/30/2021	\$ 8,847.25 <b>Actual</b> @ 12/31/2021	\$ 8,705.28 <b>Actual</b> @ 3/31/2022	\$ 8,700.00 <b>Projected</b> @ 6/30/2022	<b><u>FY 2022:</u></b> <b>\$ 35,127.</b> <b>PROJECTED</b>
<b>FY22 Actual Running Total</b>	<b>\$ 8,875.15</b>	<b>\$ 17,722.40</b>	<b>\$ 26,427.68</b>	<b>\$ 35,127.68</b>	<b>PENDING @ 6/30/2022</b>
<b><u>YEAR THREE - FY2023</u></b> <b>[projected]</b> 430 +/- subscribers x \$6.99 per mo.	\$ 8,650.00 <b>Projected</b> @ 8/30/2022	\$ 8,650.00 <b>Projected</b> @ 12/31/2022	\$ 8,650.00 <b>Projected</b> @ 3/31/2023	\$ 8,650.00 <b>Projected</b> @ 6/30/2023	<b><u>FY 2023:</u></b> <b>\$ 34,600.</b> <b>PROJECTED</b>

**BUDGET NOTES:**

As currently known, Petersham’s town-wide fiber optic network requires a regular annual operating expense budget of approx. \$24,000.

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]; misc. costs [\$2,000] = \$20,000. (See attached.)

Surety Bond fees and Pole Rental charges will likely incrementally increase over time (for example, the MLP Board saw a small increase FY21 to FY22 for the required utility surety bonds, so setting of Subscriber Fee Rates and overall budgeting needs to allow cushion for those increases. At this time, the operating budget does not include any annual debt payments to service the project construction loan.

It is the policy of the MLP Board to set the subscriber’s monthly fee as low as possible for customers while also covering annual network operating costs. With two full years of operations now completed and clear knowledge of network costs, the Board will continue with fee review and adjustments.

# Capital Improvement Planning Committee Report

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## Report of the Capital Improvement Planning Committee

Fiscal Year 2023

The Capital Improvement Planning Committee would like to recommend the following budget for Capital Improvement items for Fiscal Year 2023. In addition, the CIPC has also included its endorsement of an additional project that has been in the making for the past 10 years. All requests were evaluated on need, cost effectiveness, quality of improvement, completeness and availability of funds.

The Capital Improvement Planning Committee voted to endorse the demolition of the Maria Assumpta Academy/Nichewaug Inn. This carries a budgeted cost of \$721,000.00. The project will create more open space on the common.

The following items are recommended for inclusion in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for June of 2022 for the Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Plan.

Police Department – Purchase of two Vehicles	
1 Four Wheel Drive and One SUV and trade-in	
of 1 Crew Cab pickup truck cruiser	\$ 85,952.00
Town Clerk – Town Records Preservation	\$ 10,000.00
Petersham Center School – Gutter Replacement	\$ 27,965.00

The CIPC believes that this Capital Budget is reasonable and necessary. We would like to thank Chief Buck for the detailed presentation with numerous options for the Committee to consider in arriving at our recommendation for the Police Department. The Town Clerk's request is a continuation of her multi-year project to preserve the Town's Vital Records from deteriorating to a point that they will be unusable. Finally, the school seeks to replace the wooden gutters on the original portion of the building with aluminum gutters. The design should make the change hardly noticeable and will blend with the gutters on the new section of the building.

The CIPC hopes that the Selectboard, Finance Committee and Townspeople will see the need for these items and support our recommendations that we feel are affordable given the information supplied to the committee from various sources.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Robinson, Ch.

Jim Dowd

John Lawson

Irene Graeff

Lynn Peredina

Hillary Loring

## 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.



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**Town of Petersham**  
**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT**  
**June 6, 2022**

**ARTICLE 1.**

To see if the Town will vote to receive the reports of Town Officers and Committees and act thereon.

— RECOMMENDED

**ARTICLE 2.**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from available funds, transfer from the Stabilization Fund, transfer from other available accounts, or any combination thereof; and or borrow a sum of money; in the amount not to exceed **\$721,000.00** for the costs of the **complete demolition, deconstruction, and removal of the building known as the former Nichewaug Inn and Maria Assumpta Academy; not including the free-standing garage and exterior stonework, as shown in Map Exhibit No. 1** herein; and as detailed in the bidders' documents noticed in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' CommBuys and Central Register effective September 20, 2021; for the Town-owned property located at 25 Common Street, Assessors' Map Parcel Number 116; as may be possible with funding provided for the purposes, over a period of one or more years, as determined by the Town of Petersham, said removal to include site clearance, filling, soil restoration, grading, and seeding of the land upon completion of demolition; and to authorize the Selectboard to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary to effect said demolition and removal; and as has been approved and permitted by the Petersham Historic District Commission at the Commission's Public Hearing held on January 20, 2022 and by the Petersham Capital Improvement Planning Committee at the Committee's meeting held on April 21, 2022; and to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to issue bonds or notes therefore in accordance with the provisions of General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7(3), and Chapter 181 of the Acts and Resolves of 2013: An Act Authorizing the Town of Petersham to Borrow Outside the Debt Limit for a Certain Town Project enacted by the General Court of Massachusetts and signed into law December 19, 2013 by his Excellency the Governor, and or any other authority; or act in relation thereto.

— RECOMMENDED

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**ARTICLE 3.**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, or otherwise provide the sum of **\$26,240.00** to pay for **employee obligations incurred by the Town in Fiscal Year 2022 for the retirement of the Chief of Police**; or act in relation thereto.

— RECOMMENDED

**ARTICLE 4.**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, or otherwise provide the sum of **\$37,635.00** to **eliminate the Fiscal Year 2022 Snow and Ice Account deficit**; or act in relation thereto.

— RECOMMENDED

**ARTICLE 5.**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, or otherwise provide the sum of **\$437,533.00** to **eliminate the Fiscal Year 2022 Petersham Center School Elementary School Account deficit**; or act in relation thereto.

— RECOMMENDED

**ARTICLE 6.**

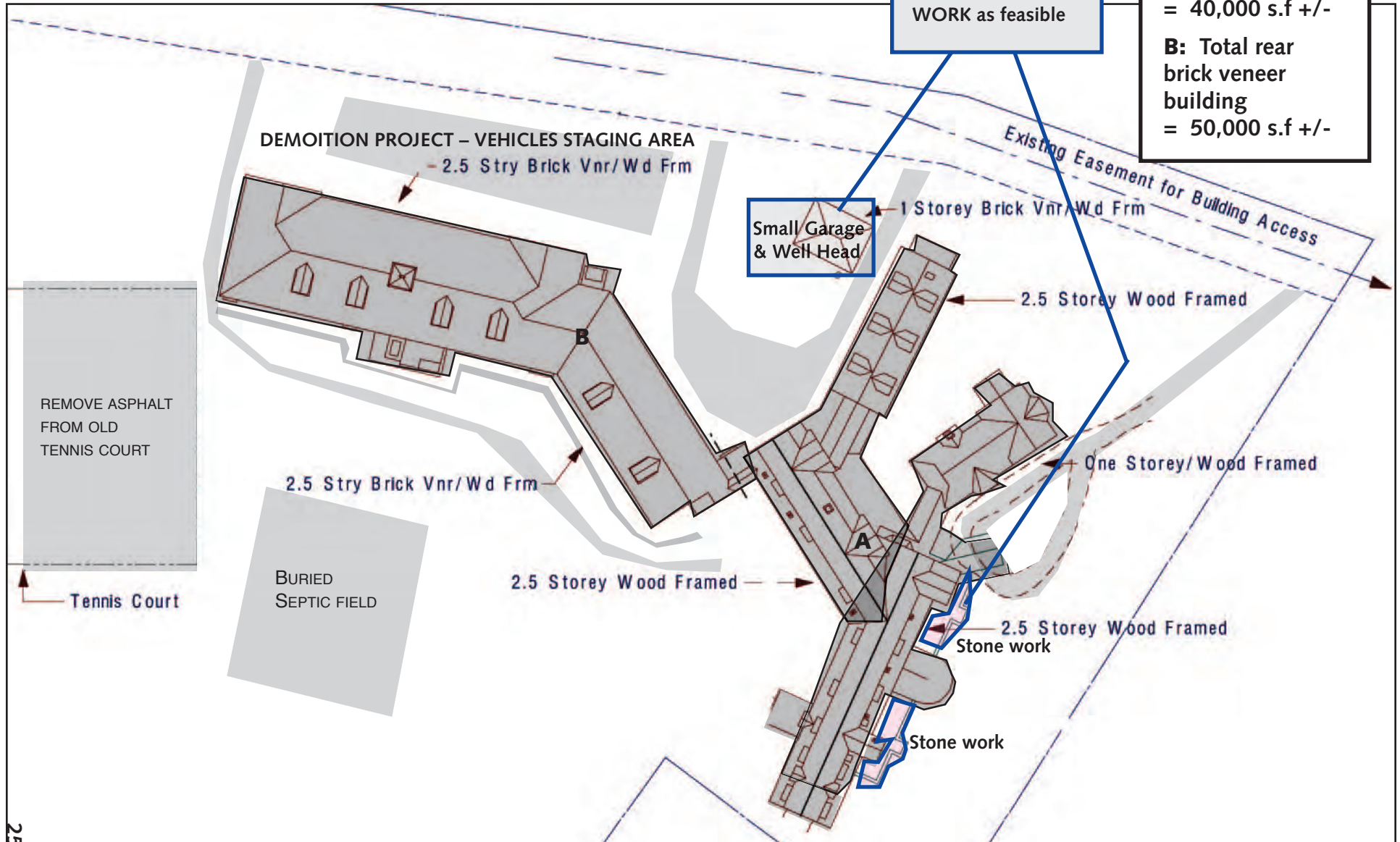
To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, or otherwise provide the sum of **\$17,209.00** to **eliminate the Fiscal Year 2022 Highway Department Wages Account deficit**; or act in relation thereto.

— RECOMMENDED

**ARTICLE 2 - Exhibit #1**

Remove structure and hardscape EXCEPTING leave standing:  
Free-standing Garage and exterior Stonework –  
in outlined areas below per Scope of Services Specifications provided.  
**STRUCTURE & HARDSCAPE AREAS TO BE REMOVED NOTED IN GREY:**

**TOTAL BUILDING SIZE**  
= 90,000 s.f. +/-  
**A:** Total front shingle building = 40,000 s.f +/-  
**B:** Total rear brick veneer building = 50,000 s.f +/-



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**-Town of Petersham**  
**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT**  
**June 6, 2022**

**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 2023, 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 2023; 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 2023; 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 2023; 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 2023; 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 2023; or act in relation thereto.

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**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 2023; 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 2023; 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 2023; 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 2023; 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 2023; 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 2023; or act in relation thereto.

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**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 2023; 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 2023; 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 2023; 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 2023; 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 —

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**ARTICLE 19.**

**Fiscal Year 2023 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 2023** 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 **\$20,237.00**; Town Clerk **\$13,337.00**; Tax Collector **\$15,187.00**; Selectboard, Chair **\$3,573.00**; Vice Chair **\$3,093.00**, Clerk **\$2,913.00**; Board of Assessors, Chair **\$3,573.00**, Clerk **\$3,093.00**, other member **\$2,913.00**; Board of Health Chair, **\$227.00**, other members **\$167.00** each; Trustee of Library **FREE**; Constables **\$13.86/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 **\$102,355.00 to pay the Fiscal Year 2023 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 **\$22,461.00 to pay the Fiscal Year 2023 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 **\$41,150.00 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

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**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 **\$39,600.00 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 25.**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$28,882.00 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 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 **\$5,000.00 for Board of Assessors' Year Three 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 27.**

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 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 **\$30,000.00 for deposit into the Reserve Fund** for Fiscal Year 2023; or act in relation thereto.

— **RECOMMENDED**



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**ARTICLE 29.**

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 30.**

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 2023 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 31.**

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.

— **NOT RECOMMENDED [TAKE NO ACTION]**

**ARTICLE 32.**

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

— **VOTER PREFERENCE**

**ARTICLE 33.**

To see if the Town will vote **to amend the Town's *General By-laws* so as to change the name of the Dog Officer to “Animal Control Officer,”** by striking out, in every instance in which they appears in reference to that position, the words “Dog Officer” and inserting in place thereof the words “Aninal Control Officer”; or act in relation thereto.

— VOTER PREFERENCE

**ARTICLE 34.**

To see if the Town will vote **to amend the Town's *General By-laws Article XIII. Dog By-law***, to be amended to include a new Section 10, to immediately follow existing Section 9, and to read as follows below in **bold, underlined print**; or act in relation thereto:

**ARTICLE XIII. SECTION 10.**  
**The General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Chapter 140, Sections 136A–174E shall serve as the Town's general Animal Control Law. If an Animal Control Officer determines there are violations to Chapter 140, they may invoke pertinent Sections of General Laws Chapter 272 and the General Laws pertaining to animal cruelty shall be necessitated.**

— VOTER PREFERENCE

**ARTICLE 35.**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the **Town's *General By-laws Article II. Town Meetings, Sections 1.d and 1. e Town Officers and Appointees and Election or Appointment of Same***, so as to amend the Sections II.1.d and II.1.e **to make the position of Constable an appointed position to be listed in Section 1.e rather than an elected position as currently listed in Section II.1.d;** such position to be appointed by the Selectboard as per other appointments in this Section II.1.e; the amended By-Law Section II.1.e therefore to read as follows below in **bold, underlined print**; or act in relation thereto:

ARTICLE II SECTION II.1.e. Appointed Positions - Police Chief, Fire Chief, Director of Town Agriculture, Inspector of Animals, Director of Veterans' Services and Veterans' Agent, Sexton, Gas Inspector, Plumbing Inspector, Electrical Inspector, Town Accountant for three years, Dog Officer, Director of Civil Defense, Town Counsel, Board of Appeals to consist of three members, one to be appointed each year for a term of three years, Personnel Board, Tree Warden, Building Inspector, Conservation Commission, Superintendent of Streets, **Constable**.

— VOTER PREFERENCE

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**ARTICLE 36.**

To see if the Town will vote **to amend the Town's Zoning By-laws Section 18. Solar Electric Installations to address only typographical errors in specific sections therein as listed below**; the By-Law therefore to read as follows below with typographic errors fixed as follows below in **bold, underlined print**; or act in relation thereto:

...

Current By-law:

Section 18.1.a. This section applies to any large-scale ground-mounted solar electric installation (greater than 10 kW (kilowatts) in the Town of Petersham. In the Solar Electric Overlay District such facilities are allowed As-of-Right. Outside of the Solar Electric Overlay District, such facilities are allowed by special permit. Smaller scale (10 kW or less) ground-mounted solar electric installations need only comply with subsection F.3.

**Proposed Amended By-law:**

Section 18.1.a. This section applies to any large-scale ground-mounted solar electric installation (**greater than 10 kW Rated Nameplate Capacity (kilowatts)**) in the Town of Petersham. In the Solar Electric Overlay District such facilities are allowed As-of-Right. Outside of the Solar Electric Overlay District, such facilities are allowed by special permit. Smaller scale (10 kW or less) ground-mounted solar electric installations need only **with subsection 18.3.**

...

Current By-law:

Section 18.2. Rated Nameplate Capacity: maximum output of a solar electric generation system in Alternating Current power production of or Direct Current (DC).

**Proposed Amended By-law:**

Section 18.2. **Rated Nameplate Capacity: The maximum rated output of electric power production of a solar electric generation system in Alternating Current (AC).**

...

Current By-law:

Section 18.4b.4. Description of financial surety that satisfies Section F.11.c.

**Proposed Amended By-law:**

Section 18.4b.4. Description of financial surety that satisfies **Section 18.11c.**

...

Current By-law:

Section 18.11.a. Removal Requirements: Any installation which has reached the end of its useful life or has been abandoned consistent with Section F.11b. of this bylaw shall be removed.

**Proposed Amended By-law:**

Section 18.11.a. Removal Requirements: Any installation which has reached the end of its useful life or has been abandoned consistent with **Section 18.11b.** of this bylaw shall be removed.

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**ARTICLE 37.**

**CITIZEN'S PETITION ARTICLE**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of **\$1,000.00 to support the Petersham Friday Market and its 2022 program of up to 20 live music performances** to be held on the town common; or act in relation thereto.

— **VOTER PREFERENCE**

**ARTICLE 38.**

**CITIZEN'S PETITION ARTICLE**

**Resolution in Support of Changing the State Flag and Seal of Massachusetts**

Whereas the history of the State of Massachusetts is replete with instances of conflict between the European Colonists and the Native Nations of the region, who first extended the hand of friendship to the Colonists on their shores in 1620, and helped them to survive starvation during the settlers' first winters on their land;

Whereas members of the Native Nation for whom the State of Massachusetts is named were ambushed and killed by Myles Standish, first commander of the Plymouth Colony, in April of 1623, barely two years after the Pilgrims arrived;

Whereas the Colonial broadsword held by a white hand above the head of the Native man on the Massachusetts State Flag and Seal is modeled after Myles Standish's own broadsword, borrowed for that purpose from the Pilgrim Hall in Plymouth by the illustrator Edmund Garrett in 1884;

Whereas the belt binding the Native's cloak on the Flag and Seal is modeled after a belt worn by Metacomet, known to the English as King Philip, who was among the Wampanoag leaders who resorted to a mutually destructive war in 1675–76 in defense of Native lands against Colonial encroachment;

Whereas the proportions of the body of the Native man in the Flag and Seal were taken from a Native skeleton unearthed in Winthrop, the bow modeled after a bow taken from a Native man shot and killed by a colonist in Sudbury in 1665, and the facial features taken from a photograph of an Ojibwe chief from Great Falls, Montana, considered by the illustrator to be a “fine specimen of an Indian,” though not from Massachusetts;

Whereas the history of relations between Massachusetts since Colonial times and the Native Nations who continue to live within its borders includes the forced internment of thousands of so-called “praying Indians” on Deer Island, in Boston Harbor, where they died by the hundreds of exposure in 1675, the enslavement in Boston, Bermuda, and the Caribbean Islands, the offering of 40 pounds sterling as bounty for the scalps of Native men, women and children in Massachusetts beginning in 1686, increased to 100 pounds sterling for the scalps of Native adult males by 1722, half that amount for Native women and children;

Whereas Native Nations within the boundaries of Massachusetts were legally considered wards of the state until the nonviolent action of the so-called Mashpee Rebellion of 1833 led to the granting of Native self-rule by the Massachusetts legislature in 1834, as if the sovereign right of Native self-government was the Massachusetts legislature's to confer;

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Whereas Native Americans were legally prohibited from even stepping foot into Boston from 1675 until 2004, when that law was finally repealed;

Whereas the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Colonists at Plymouth Plantation, which gave rise to the long chain of genocidal wars and deliberate policies of cultural destruction against Native Nations of this continent, occurred in the year 2020, affording every citizen of the Commonwealth a chance to reflect upon this history and come to an appreciation of the need for better relations between the descendants of the Colonial immigrants and the Native Nations of the Commonwealth;

Whereas the land area now known as the Town of Petersham shares a rich Native history with modern tribal Nations like the Nipmuc, who inhabited this area for thousands of years before the first colonial settlers arrived, in 1733;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Town of Petersham hereby adopts this resolution in support of the work of the Special Commission Relative to the Seal and Motto of the Commonwealth, established by a Resolve of the General Court in 2020 and appointed by the Governor to recommend changes to the current flag and seal of Massachusetts, and in support of a new seal and motto for the Commonwealth that may better reflect our aspirations for harmonious and respectful relations between all people who now call Massachusetts home.

The town clerk shall forward a copy of this resolution to Sen. Marc Pacheco and Rep. Antonio Cabral, co-chairs of the Joint Committee on State Administration, who serve as members of the Special Commission Relative to the Seal and Motto of the Commonwealth, and to Sen. Anne Gobi and Rep. Susannah Whipps, with the request that they continue their support for the work of the aforementioned Special Commission.

— VOTER PREFERENCE

— END OF WARRANT ---

# Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District

## Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Budget, 2022–2023 School Year

RALPH C. MAHAR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT						
FY 2023 BUDGET & ASSESSMENTS						
4/28/2022	FINAL BUDGET AS VOTED on 4/28/2022	Total	New Salem	Orange	PETERSHAM	Wendell
<b>FY 2023 Proposed Budget</b>		<b>14,848,233</b>				
Less Debt		205,000				
Less Transportation						
Pupil Transportation		979,480				
SpEd Transportation		495,000				
Net School Spending		13,168,753				
Less Grant Revenue		1,031,655				
Less Chapter 70 Aid		5,674,283				
<b>Net Budget</b>		<b>6,462,815</b>				
Minimum Local Contribution (MLC) required by Ed Reform		2,803,575	365,535	1,661,563	551,326	225,151
Difference between MLC and Net Budget Balance		3,659,240				
Foundation Enrollment (as of 10/1/2021)		575	43	428	63	41
Apportion Percentage		100.00%	7.4783%	74.4348%	10.9565%	7.1304%
Apportion 24D amount by agreement			273,648	2,723,747	400,925	260,920
Transportation Budget		1,474,480				
Less Aid to Transportation Preliminary		469,696				
Net Transportation		1,004,784	75,140	747,909	110,089	71,645
Debt Payments						
Not Subject to Prop 2 1/2 (Dam)		0	0	0	0	0
Total Assessments, MLC plus apportionments		7,467,599	714,323	5,133,219	1,062,341	557,716
Excess & Deficiency		250,000	18,696	186,087	27,391	17,826
<b>FY 2023 Assessment Not Exempt from Prop 2 1/2</b>		<b>7,217,599</b>	<b>695,627</b>	<b>4,947,132</b>	<b>1,034,949</b>	<b>539,890</b>
Debt Payments Subject to Prop 2 1/2 (School Construction)		205,000	15,330	152,591	22,461	14,617
Exempt						
Total FY 2023 Assessment		<b>7,422,599</b>	<b>710,958</b>	<b>5,099,723</b>	<b>1,057,410</b>	<b>554,507</b>



**Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District**  
**Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Budget, 2022–2023 School Year** *(continued)*

<b>RALPH C. MAHAR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT</b>						
<b>FY 2023 BUDGET &amp; ASSESSMENTS</b>						
<b>4/14/2022</b>	<b>FINAL BUDGET AS VOTED on 4/28/2022</b>		<b>Non-Exempt</b>	<b>Exempt</b>	<b>Total</b>	
				<b>(School Constr)</b>		
<b>New Salem</b>						
FY2023 Assessment			695,627	15,330	710,958	
FY2022 Assessment			677,079	15,961	693,040	
Dollar Increase			18,548	(631)	17,918	
Percent Increase			2.74%	-3.95%	2.59%	
<b>Orange</b>						
FY2023 Assessment			4,947,132	152,591	5,099,723	
FY2022 Assessment			4,760,481	162,036	4,922,517	
Dollar Increase			186,651	(9,445)	177,206	
Percent Increase			3.92%	-5.83%	3.60%	
<b>PETERSHAM</b>						
<b>FY2023 Assessment</b>			<b>1,034,949</b>	<b>22,461</b>	<b>1,057,410</b>	
<b>FY2022 Assessment</b>			864,945	19,777	884,722	
<b>Dollar Increase</b>			<b>170,004</b>	<b>2,684</b>	<b>172,688</b>	
<b>Percent Increase</b>			<b>19.65%</b>	<b>13.57%</b>	<b>19.52%</b>	
<b>Wendell</b>						
FY2023 Assessment			539,890	14,617	554,507	
FY2022 Assessment			467,253	14,226	481,479	
Dollar Increase			72,637	391	73,028	
Percent Increase			15.55%	2.75%	15.17%	

**Petersham Center School  
Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Budget, 2022–2023 School Year**

<b>PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET, 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR</b>		
	<b>Adopted FY22</b>	<b>Proposed FY23</b>
<b>FY Proposed Budget</b>	2,038,350	<b>2,120,059</b>
<b>Less Grant Revenue (CB, 240)</b>	58,000	<b>58,000</b>
<b>Less School Choice Revenue</b>	300,000	<b>327,361</b>
<b>Less Chapter 70 Aid</b>	437,533	<b>439,483</b>
<b>Less any School Choice carryover from previous FY</b>	35,000	
<b>Less any additional grant revenue (non-Covid)</b>		
<b>Less any Covid Grant funds at year end</b>		
<b>Net Budget</b>	1,207,817	<b>1,295,215</b>
<b>Minimum Local Contribution (MLC) required by Ed Reform</b>	<u>648,211</u>	<b><u>553,478</u></b>
<b>Difference between MLC and Net Budget balance</b>	559,606	<b>741,737</b>
<b>Debt Payments</b>		
<b>Not subject to Prop 2 1/2</b>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total Assessments, MLC plus apportionments</b>	1,207,817	<b>1,295,215</b>
<b>Debt Payments subject to Prop 2 1/2 (School Construction)</b>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total FY Assessment</b>	<u>1,207,817</u>	<b><u>1,295,215</u></b>
<b>PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL BUDGET &amp; ASSESSMENTS</b>		
	FY23 Assessment	<b>1,295,215</b>
	FY22 Assessment	1,207,817
	FY21 Assessment	<u>1,118,385</u>
	Dollar Increase	89,432
	Percent Increase	8.00%
		87,398
		7.24%

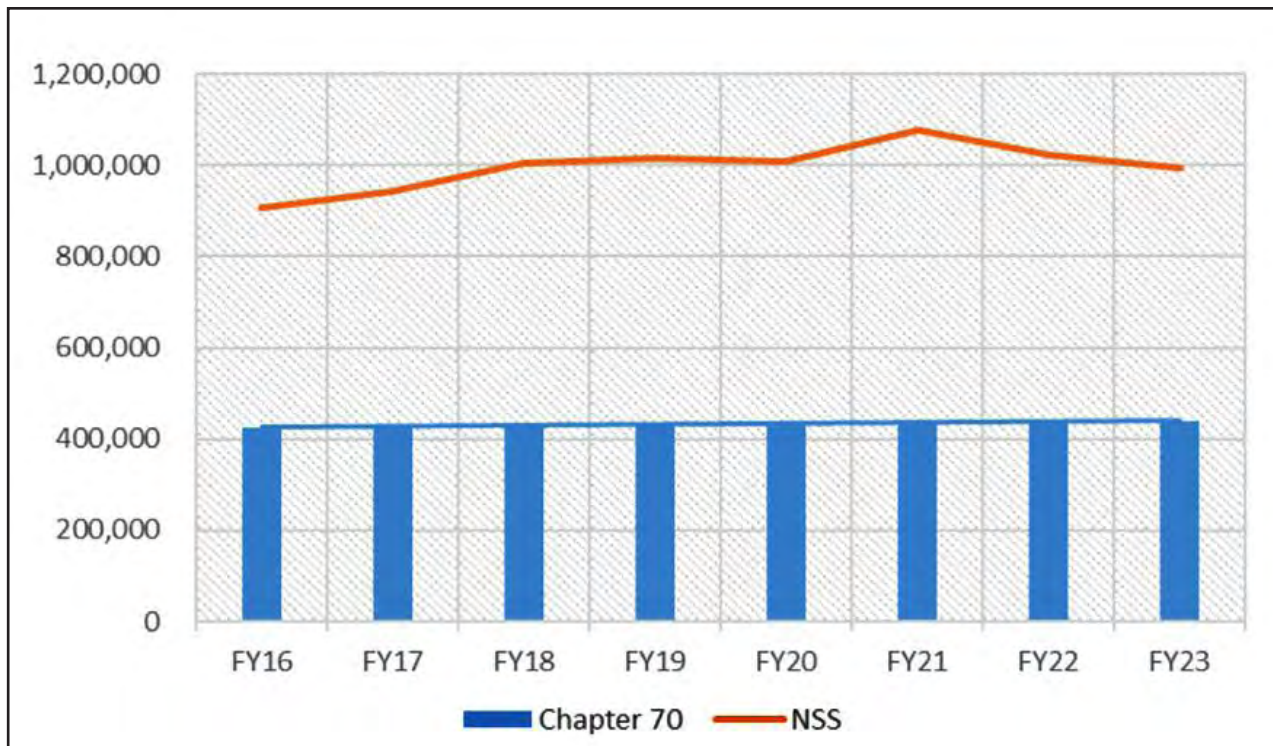


**Petersham Center School**  
**Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Budget, 2022–2023 School Year** *(continued)*

**Center School Enrollment at October 1 2021**

Current Grade	Petersham	School Choice In	TOTALS
K	7	7	14
1 <sup>st</sup>	10	6	16
2 <sup>nd</sup>	13	5	18
3 <sup>rd</sup>	12	11	23
4 <sup>th</sup>	1	8	9
5 <sup>th</sup>	9	9	18
6 <sup>th</sup>	5	10	15
PCS Totals (K-6)	57	56	113
% of TOTAL	50%	50%	

**Chapter 70 School Aid versus Net School Spending**



# Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Budget, 2022-2023 School Year

## COMMUNITY ASSESSMENTS

COMMUNITIES	FY2023 FOUNDATION ENROLLMENT	FISCAL YEAR 2023					PROPOSED ASSESSMENT FY2023	FY2022 FOUNDATION ENROLLMENT	APPROVED ASSESSMENT FY2022	CHANGE FY22 - FY23
		FOUNDATION BUDGET	REQUIRED MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION	TRANSPORT/ OPERATING ASSESS.	(3) CAPITAL ASSESS.	(4) BONDS				
Ashburnham	67	1,276,796	548,196	17,200	10,828	0	376,234	70	567,093	9,131
Ashby	34	647,966	337,357	8,726	4,872	0	396,957	37	389,597	(36,640)
Athol	114	2,172,390	327,378	29,265	17,184	0	373,827	113	331,262	42,565
Barre	50	952,803	348,848	12,835	7,573	0	376,256	48	346,661	23,575
Fitchburg	375	7,148,630	1,855,228	96,330	65,487	0	1,817,645	384	1,673,538	143,507
Gardner	177	3,372,922	1,062,724	46,436	26,492	0	1,134,694	178	1,068,436	66,254
Harvard	8	152,448	122,863	2,054	10,935	0	136,872	4	61,698	74,814
Holden	187	2,838,998	1,156,707	27,532	35,141	0	1,216,386	88	932,338	287,042
<b>Hubbardston</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>879,579</b>	<b>480,261</b>	<b>11,809</b>	<b>5,540</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>497,689</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>462,182</b>	<b>35,427</b>
Lunenburg	94	1,791,268	1,012,282	24,131	17,984	0	1,064,376	63	876,289	178,687
Petersham	8	152,448	90,327	2,054	1,388	0	93,768	5	61,616	32,753
Phillipston	21	488,177	212,584	5,391	1,612	0	218,567	18	186,370	26,217
Princeton	28	496,467	385,080	8,674	4,008	0	398,361	29	425,147	(26,786)
Royalston	8	152,448	53,753	2,054	1,601	0	57,488	12	79,223	(21,815)
Sterling	62	1,181,475	948,673	16,916	10,963	0	975,792	64	836,675	37,117
Templeton	67	1,657,877	570,693	22,334	10,506	0	683,535	89	607,322	(2,787)
Westminster	73	1,391,092	742,053	18,740	12,867	0	773,668	61	804,225	(30,565)
Winchendon	108	2,677,116	659,627	27,981	14,560	0	792,108	116	703,889	(1,791)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,467</b>	<b>27,936,176</b>	<b>10,715,954</b>	<b>376,464</b>	<b>290,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,362,416</b>	<b>1,461</b>	<b>10,627,334</b>	<b>825,064</b>





SPECIAL & ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
PETERSHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

**MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2022**

**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.



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*Dear Reader:*

Registered residents are encouraged to attend Petersham Town Meeting. If you are not a registered voter in the Town of Petersham, you must receive permission from the Town Moderator to gain admittance to the main floor. If you have questions or need assistance, please inquire with the Town Clerk and Town Meeting checkers at the front door.

TOWN OF PETERSHAM  
Post Office Box 486  
Petersham, Massachusetts 01366-0486

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