WARRANT

FOR THE

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

TOWN OF FREETOWN

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2015 -7:30 P.M.

AUDITORIUM
FREETOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
43 BULLOCK ROAD
EAST FREETOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

BRISTOL, SS:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Freetown, GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth you are hereby requested to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Freetown who are qualified to vote in the Elections and Town Affairs to meet in the Freetown Elementary School, Auditorium, 43 Bullock Road, East Freetown, Massachusetts, on Monday, the Fifteen day of June, 2015, at 7:30 P.M., then and there to act on the following Articles, viz:

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the Town charges for the Fiscal Year 2016, viz: General Government, Town Reports, Planning Board, Finance Committee, Board of Appeals, for Protection of Persons and Property, for Health and Sanitation, for Highways, for Libraries, for Veterans' Benefits, for Cemeteries, Town Parks, Interest and Principal on School Loans, Conservation Commission, Historical Commission, and Unclassified: Tax Titles, Reserve Fund, Bristol County Retirement, Incidentals, Soil Conservation, Council on Aging, Graves' Registration Officer, Cultural Council, Capital Equipment, Capital Building Improvement, and Insurance, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: This Article serves as the introductory article for presentation of the Omnibus Budget.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary and compensation of all elected officers of the Town as provided by Chapter 41, Section 108 of the General Laws, as amended, for the Fiscal Year 2016, and/or take any action relative thereto.

FIGURES INDICATE ANNUAL SALARIES OR HOURLY PAYRATES.

	VOTED FY 2015	SELECTMEN RECOMMENDED FY 2016	FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED FY2016	DEPT. REQUEST
Moderator	$ 413.00	413.00		413.00
Board of Selectmen (each)	6,000.00	6,000.00		6,000.00
Town Clerk	49,195.00	49,895.00		51,392.00
Board of Assessors (each)	4,192.00	4,192.00		4,192.00
Tree Warden	20.18	20.18		20.18
Highway Surveyor	62,019.00	62,719.00		62,019.00
Reg. Dist. Sch. Com (each)	1,106.00	1,106.00		1,106.00

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: Salaries of elected officials by law must be set by Town Meeting. Elected officials are not covered under Article 10 of the Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan nor under union contract; this is the only avenue to adjust elected officials' salaries to keep pace with inflation.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of Two Thousand Dollars ($2,000.00) to pay for the purpose of supporting the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Program of the New Bedford Women's Center, Inc.; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: This article provides for grant funding for shelter, crisis intervention, counseling, medical and legal advocacy and educational programs to the community in relation to the issue of rape, sexual assault, and domestic violence, and/or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of Four Hundred Fifty-Five Dollars ($455.00) to pay for Insect Pest Control, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: This article provides for funding for the Tree Warden for insect pest control for trees.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds. The sum of Nine Thousand Three Hundred Ninety-Three Dollars ($9,393.00) to cover the cost associated with training fire department Emergency Medical Technician Intermediate (EMT-1) to meet the National Emergency Medical Scope of Practice EMT Advance requirements as adopted by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen and Gary Silvia, Fire Chief Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: In an effort to standardize all EMS certifications, Massachusetts has adopted the National EMS Scope of Practice model and requires all Massachusetts Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics to meet the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians certification requirements by 2016 or 2017 depending on the individual EMT's recertification date. This article covers the cost to train our EMT-Intermediates to the EMT-Advance level to meet the new standard prior to the expiration of their current certifications.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to authorize revolving funds for certain town department, pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53E½, of the Massachusetts General Laws, for the following programs and purposes, to determine whether such revolving fund accounts shall be credited with the following departmental receipts, to determine whether the following boards, departments or officers shall be authorized to expend amounts from such revolving fund accounts and to determine whether the maximum amounts that may be expended from such revolving fund accounts in FY2016 shall be the following amounts or any other amounts; and/or take any action relative thereto.

REVOLVING FUND	AUTHORIZED TO SPEND FUND	REVENUE SOURCE	USE OF FUND	FY 2016 SPENDING LIMIT
Board of Selectmen	Board of Selectmen or Town Administrator	Fees from the Sale of Advertising Space within Annual Town Reports	Offset the cost of compiling & printing of Annual Town Report.	$500.00
Communications Department	Chief of Police or Fire Chief	Fees from Residential & Commercial Burglar & Fire Alarms Subscribers	Offset the cost of phone lines, postage & other related costs.	$595.00
Police Department	Chief of Police	Fee collected from Police Exam test takers.	Offset cost of purchasing & administering the written Examination & other related costs.	$100.00
Recreation Committee	Board of Health	Fees from Long Pond Boat Ramp Users	Offset Cost of Operation & Maintenance of the Boat Ramp	$3,770.00

Submitted by Board of Selectmen Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: A revolving fund established under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½ must be authorized annually by vote of the Town Meeting. The fund is credited with only the departmental receipts received in connection with the programs supported by such revolving fund, and expenditures may be made from the revolving fund without further appropriation.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sums of Twenty Thousand Dollars ($20,000.00) for the purpose of maintaining, preparing, preserving and safekeeping the permanent Town of Freetown records located in the Town Clerk's Office, including any costs incidental and related thereto; and/or take an action relative thereto.

Submitted by Town Clerk Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: The funds obtained from this article would be used to continue the process of microfilming or scanning, book-binding, purchasing acid-free supplies, and taking any other measure to safely maintain, repair and preserve the historical records of the Town and its residents that are located in the Town Clerk's Office.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars ($40,000.00) to fund 1/3 of the cost of the Recertification of Values Program and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Freetown Board of Assessors Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: The Town funds its Recertification Program in increments. This represents one increment in the Town's obligation to that program.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of Nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($9,500.00) to pay for the annual Software License and Web Hosting of Assessor's Values that is provided by Paul Kapinos & Associates, Inc.

Submitted by Freetown Board of Assessors Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: This sum relates to the Software License and Web link to the Assessors database.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sums of Twenty Thousand Dollars ($20,000.00) to purchase play structures for various parks throughout the Town, including any costs incidental and related thereto; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: This Article is proposed to playground equipment for Town parks.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote in accordance with General Laws Chapter 115, Section 9, to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds, the sum of Three Hundred Fifty Dollars ($350.00) for the maintenance of veterans' graves, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Cemetery Commission Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: This is an annual article that funds the maintenance of certain veterans' graves in the Town as provided by M. G. L. Chapter 115, Section 9.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of Two Thousand Dollars ($2,000.00) from the Sale of Cemetery Lots Account to be used by the Cemetery Commission for improvements to the Assonet Burying Ground, to include surveying of existing prepared land, marking out of lots, clearing new areas, performing maintenance, and improving roads and access, including any costs incidental and related thereto; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Cemetery Commission Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: This is an annual appropriation. According to state law, revenues from lot sales may only be spent for the benefit of the cemetery in which those lots were sold.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to operate the Water Enterprise Fund for FY '16,

Direct Expenses:	
Personnel Expenses	$75,008.97
Expenses	$447,604.03
Total	$522,513.00

and that $522,613 be raised from Water Enterprise revenues;

$522,613.00 to come from Water Enterprise Revenues
$31,536 to be raised and appropriated from the General Fund operating budget and allocated to the Enterprise Fund for funding.

or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Water and Sewer Commission Requires Majority Vote

EXPLANATION OF ARTICLE:
To show that the Water Enterprise Fund is self sufficient in accordance with M.G.L. chapter 44, section 53F ½.

Total Water Enterprise Budget (information purposes only)

Expenses:

Direct Expenses:		Indirect Expenses: (included in the Omnibus Budget, Article 1)	
Salaries	$75,008.97	Health Insurance	$14,555.00
Purchased Water (FR & NB)	$312,141.00	Pensions	$3,505.00
Pump and Filter Stations	$23,450.00	Finance	$9,899.00
Vehicle Expenses	$5,298.80	Utilities & Maint	$2,242.00
Professional and Tech Services	$70,694.23	IT Service	$1,335.00
Misc. Supplies & Unclassified Items	$17,435.00	Subtotal:	$31,536.00
Booster Station Principle Debt	$14,750.00		
Booster Station Interest Debt	$3,835.00		
Subtotal:	$522,613.00		
Total Expenses:	$554,149.00		

Revenues:

Backflow Fees	$3,261.00
Water sales	$456,744.00
Connection fees	$12,000.00
Meter Service fees	$32,144.00
ISP/Ashland charges	$50,000.00
Total Revenues	$554,149.00

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to borrow, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 44, sec. 7 or any other enabling authority, $75,000 for the purposes of completing DEP mandated compliance/improvements at the Filter Site located on South Main Street, including but not limited to design, engineering, implementation, and any other costs incidental and related thereto, and to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Water and Sewer Commission Requires 2/3 Vote

Explanation: The Freetown Water Commission is required to meet DEP regulations relative to the construction and operation of our filter site located on South Main St. By borrowing this money we can remain in compliance and avoid any fines or penalties.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to operate the Sewer Enterprise Fund for FY '16,

Direct Expenses:

Personnel Expenses	$5,628.48
Expenses	$195,121.52
Total:	$200,750.00

and that $200,750 be raised from Sewer Enterprise revenues;
and/or take any action relative thereto.

$200,750.00 to come from Sewer Enterprise Revenues;
$1,474.00 to be raised and appropriated in the General Fund operating budget and allocated to the Enterprise Fund for funding.

Submitted by Water and Sewer Commission Requires Majority Vote

EXPLANATION OF ARTICLE: To show that the Sewer Enterprise fund is self sufficient in accordance with M.G.L. chapter 44, section 53F ½.

Total Sewer Enterprise Budget (information purposes only)

Expenses:

Direct Expenses:

Salaries	$5,628.48
Sewer charge- Fall River	$190,000.00
Vehicle expenses	$700.00
Professional & Tech	$3,571.52
Misc Supplies	$850.00
Subtotal	$200,750.00

Indirect Expenses:
(included in the Omnibus Budget, Article 1)

Finance	$1,099.00
Utilities	$242.00
IT service	$133.00
Subtotal:	$1,474.00

Total Expenses: $202,224.00

Total Revenues: $202,224.00

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free cash the sum of One Hundred Eighty Five Thousand Dollars ($185,000) to fund the first year cost items contained in the Collective Bargaining Agreements between the Town of Freetown and:

Freetown Town Hall, Library, Highway Department Public Employees Local Union 1144
Freetown Full Time Firefighters Association
Freetown Police Association
911 Signal Operators Public Employees Local Union 1144

Which has the term of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: As we continue negotiations we want to set aside an amount for use during the upcoming year.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 1, Section 1.2 by deleting the strike through text and inserting the underlined text, as follows:

Election of Officers-Referendum Questions
The Annual Town Meeting for the election of officers and referendum questions shall be held on the first Monday in April and for such purpose the polls shall be open from twelve o'clock noon until eight o'clock p.m. in each precinct of Town. The Town shall annually when the term of office of any incumbent expires and except when other provisions are made by law, choose by ballot from the registered voters the following Town Officers: A ***Moderator***; One ***Selectman,*** who shall also serve as a member of the ***Board of Health*** and a member of the ***Personnel Board***; One ***Assessor***; a ***Highway Surveyor***; Two ***Library Trustees***; One ***Cemetery Commissioner***; a ***Tree Warden***; One ***Water and Sewer Commissioner***; One ***Planning Board*** member; and a ***Town Clerk***. The term of office for each such office shall be 3 years except for the Planning Board members whose term of office shall be 5 years.

The Town shall elect two ***Finance Committee*** members in 1992, two Finance Committee members in 1993 and three Finance Committee members in 1994, all for three year terms, with successive elections every three years thereafter. ~~In 2004 the Town shall increase the size of the School Committee from three to five members by electing two additional members, one for a three year term and one for a two year term, and thereafter all five School Committee members shall be elected for three year terms.~~

Commencing with the 2012 Annual Town Election, four members shall be elected to the ***Housing Authority***. The initial terms of such members shall be for five, four, two, and one years, with the candidate receiving the highest number of votes to serve the five-year term, the candidate with the next highest number of votes to serve for the four-year term, and so on. Upon expiration of the initial terms of office, all member shall be elected for terms of five years.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Freetown Protective By-laws, **Article 11, Zoning By-laws, Table of Contents Section,** to include reference to Section 11.30 Science and Technology Overlay District; such amendments as on file in the Office of the Town Clerk; and/or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Planning Board Requires 2/3 Vote

Explanation: To add to the Table of Contents listings a section for the Science and Technology Overlay District by law that was adopted at the Special Town Meeting of October 27, 2014.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Freetown Protective By-Laws, Article 11 Zoning By-Laws, Section 11.11 (B.) (1.), by deleting the strikethrough text and inserting the underlined text as follows; and further, to amend the Zoning Map to include the revised Floodplain Overlay District boundaries; and/or take any action relative thereto:

B. Floodplain District Boundaries and Base Flood Elevation and Floodway Data
1. Floodplain District Boundaries and Base Flood Elevation Data
The Floodplain District is herein established as an overlay district. The District includes all special flood hazard areas within the Town of Freetown designated as Zone A, AE, and VE on the Bristol County Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the administration of the National Flood Insurance Program. The map panels of the Bristol County FIRM that are wholly or partially within the Town of Freetown are panel numbers 25005C0258F, 25005C0264F, 25005C0267F, 25005C0268F, 25005C0269F, 25005C0286F, ~~25005C0287F,~~ 25005C0288F, ~~25005C0289F, 25005C0291F, 25005C0293F,~~ 25005C0357F, 25005C0359F, 25005C0376F, 25005C0377F, 25005C0378F, and 25005C0381F dated July 7, 2009; ~~and~~ panel numbers 25005C0254G, 25005C0261G, 25005C0262G, 25005C0263G, and 25005C0266G dated July 16, 2014; and panel numbers 25005C0287G, 25005C0289G, 25005C0291G and 25005C0293G dated July 16, 2015. The exact boundaries of the District may be defined by the 100-year base flood elevations shown on the FIRM and further defined by the Bristol County Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report dated ~~July 16, 2014~~ July 16, 2015. The FIRM and FIS report are incorporated herein by reference and are on file with the Town Building Commissioner, Town Clerk, and Conservation Commission.

Submitted by Planning Board Requires 2/3 Vote

Explanation: FEMA has issued new Flood Maps for Massachusetts. We must change our existing Zoning By-Law to incorporate changes made to the town maps. These changes must be made in order for the town to avoid being suspended by FEMA from participating in the National Flood Insurance Program.

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 5 of the Acts of 2012, eight members of the Freetown Lakeville Regional School Committee shall be elected, four of whom shall be registered voters of the Town of Freetown and four of whom shall be registered voters of the Town of Lakeville. Commencing with the 2012 Annual Town Election, four members from both towns shall be elected for initial terms as follows: two for three-year terms; one for a two-year term; and one for a one-year term. Upon expiration of the initial terms of office, all members shall be elected for terms of three years.

and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Jacqueline Brown, Town Clerk Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: Article 1 section 1.2 is being amended to reflect the previous changes with the creation of the Freetown Lakeville Regional School District Committee and the Freetown Housing Authority.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to be deposited into the Stabilization Fund, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen Requires 2/3 Vote

Explanation: Move money not used at the ATM to savings.

Freetown, Junior's Convenience Store and Freetown Town Hall, and the Freetown Communications Center.

Hereof, fail not and make return of the original Warrant with your doings thereon immediately after making service thereof to the Town Clerk of the Town of Freetown, Massachusetts.

Given under our hands and seal of the Town of Freetown, this 28th day of May, Anno Domini, Two Thousand fifteenth.

Lee J. Baumgartner
Chairman

Paul G. Sadeck

Lisa A. Pacheco

FREETOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN