WARRANT

FOR THE

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

TOWN OF FREETOWN

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2014 -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 Sixteenth day of June, 2014, 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 2015, 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 2015, and/or take any action relative thereto.

FIGURES INDICATE ANNUAL SALARIES OR HOURLY PAYRATES.

	VOTED FY 2014	SELECTMEN RECOMMENDED FY 2015	FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED FY2015	DEPT. REQUEST
Moderator	$ 406.00	$ 413.00	$ 413.00	$ 406.00
Board of Selectmen (each)	5,500.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Town Clerk	48,230.00	49,074.00	49,074.00	49,195.00
Board of Assessors (each)	4,120.00	4,192.00	4,192.00	4,120.00
Tree Warden	19.83	20.18	20.18	19.83
Highway Surveyor	60,212.00	61,266.00	61,266.00	62,019.00
Reg. Dist. Sch. Com (each)	1,087.00	1,106.00	1,106.00	1,087.00

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. In the case of the Board of Selectmen, the Selectmen have not had an increase in seven (7) years.

ARTICLE 3: To see of the Town will vote to fix the 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 2015, by providing longevity payments as follows:

After 5 years of service	$ 500.00
After 10 years of service	$ 600.00
After 15 years of service	$ 700.00
After 20 years of service	$ 800.00
After 25 years of service	$ 900.00

and/or take any action relative thereto

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: This article, if passed, will provide longevity payments for elected officials.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 10 of the Freetown General By-Laws, Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan, Section 10.6 J by deleting the following table listing longevity payment amounts contained therein:

After 5 years of service	$ 300.00
After 10 years of service	$ 350.00
After 15 years of service	$ 425.00
After 20 years of service	$ 500.00
After 25 years of service	$ 600.00

and inserting in place thereof the following revised table:

After 5 years of service	$ 500.00
After 10 years of service	$ 600.00
After 15 years of service	$ 700.00
After 20 years of service	$ 800.00
After 25 years of service	$ 900.00

and/or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: This Article, if passed, will amend the Town's bylaws adjusting the amount of longevity pay provided to eligible employees.

ARTICLE 5: 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 Board of Selectmen Required Majority Vote

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

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of Two thousand dollars ($2,000.00) 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 funding of 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 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds, the sum of Three Thousand Dollars ($3,000.00) for the purchase of fireworks for the annual Independence Day celebration, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Parade and Fireworks Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: This article would fund approximately 25% of the cost of the fireworks program, the rest to be paid for through donations and fundraisers.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to M.G.L. chapter 44, section 53E 1/2, to establish a revolving account into which shall be deposited fees for the sale of advertising space on the back cover of future Annual Town Reports, such funds being received from businesses wishing to advertise, to be used to offset the cost of compiling and printing the Annual Town Reports, to be expended by the Board of Selectmen, in an amount not to exceed Three Thousand Dollars ($3,000.00), and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: The printing of the Annual Town Report is required by Massachusetts General Laws chapter 40, section 49, and each year costs the Town between $2,500.00 and $3,000.00. It is thought that by returning to the nineteenth century practice of selling advertising space on the back covers of the reports, the reports will in essence pay for themselves.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to authorize, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53E 1/2, the establishment of a revolving fund for the Recreation Committee, into which will be deposited receipts from the Long Pond Boat Ramp fees, from which costs not to exceed the sum of Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000.00) may be expended without further appropriation for operation and maintenance of the Boat Ramp by the Recreation Committee and Board of Selectmen, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Parks/Recreation Committee Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: This Article will allow the Parks/Recreation Committee to spend the funds they collect for the purposes of enhancing and maintaining recreation areas.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars ($30,000.00) to fund the FY14-FY16 Recertification of Values Program and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Freetown Board of Assessors Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: This represents installment two of the FY14-16 Revaluation Program. Since the winning bid for the project came in at $99,900 and since the first increment was funded in the amount of $40,000, the remainder will be $30,000 for FY14 and $30,000 for FY15.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, a revolving fund for the Communications Department, into which will be deposited receipts from residential and commercial burglar and fire alarm fees, from which costs not to exceed the sum of Two Thousand Dollars ($2,000.00) may be expended without further appropriation for phone lines, postage and other related costs by the Board of Selectmen, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Chief of Police Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: Residents and businesses that choose to connect their burglar and fire alarm phone dialers to the Communications Center are billed for that connection. The amount received from these subscribers is used to help defray the costs incurred by the Town for two phone lines, postage used to mail out invoices, etc.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds the sum of Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-Nine Dollars and Fifty Cents ($9,989.50) for the purchase and installation of radio equipment, together with related expenses, to serve the needs of the fire and police departments, and/or take any action relative thereto.
Submitted by the Fire and Police Chiefs Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: The Comm. of Mass. has authorized the Town to install radio equipment on a local fire tower for the purpose of improving fire and police radio communications. This installation will be one step in the process of improving the Town's radio infrastructure. Currently, there are locations in Assonet where no or poor fire and police radio communications exist.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of Four Hundred Dollars ($400.00) representing the Town's share of a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) to purchase an Air Cylinder Fill Station for the Fire Department; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Fire Chief Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: The fire department was awarded a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters grant (AFG) in the amount of Eight Thousand Dollars ($8,000.00) to purchase a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) air cylinder fill station. The purchase of this piece of equipment will allow firefighters to safely fill high pressure air cylinders. The amount above reflects the town's share of 5% towards the purchase of this equipment.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of Thirteen Thousand One Hundred Dollars ($13,100.00) to purchase radio pagers and chargers for the fire department; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Fire Chief Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: The fire department issues all firefighters a personal radio/pager and charger. These pagers alert them to emergencies, non-emergency notifications and standbys. The current fire department radio pagers are at the end of their service life and consistently require repairs to keep them in service.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by purchase, gift, and/or eminent domain, permanent and/or temporary easements in, on and under a portion or portions of the parcels of land abutting South Main Street, identified on Assessors Map 233 as Parcels 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, and 30.03, for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Freetown, including, without limitation, for access, utility, grading and/or related purposes; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: This article seeks approval of property acquisitions necessary for the expansion and alteration of South Main Street to accommodate the uses on that Town way. The portions of properties to be acquired will be used for the widening of the road, which will be undertaken in cooperation with Stop & Shop.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to accept as a Town way the roadway entitled **Kayla Way**, in its entirety for a length of 505.38 feet, as heretofore laid out by the Board of Selectmen and shown on a plan entitled "Street Acceptance Plan, dated 10/01/13," prepared by Sitec Civil and Environmental Engineering Land Use Planning, on file with the Town Clerk, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire on behalf of the Town by gift, purchase, or eminent domain the fee to and/or easements in said Kayla Way for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Freetown, and any drainage, utility, access, and/or other easements related thereto; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: This Article will allow Kayla Way to be accepted as a Town roadway.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to install and fund a street light at the corner of Chipaway Road and Bullock Road and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Petition Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: This is a very dangerous intersection with considerable traffic. It is preferred route from Bullock Road to Braley four corners and into the City of New Bedford. During darkness it is very difficult to find the turn from Bullock Road onto Chipaway road. While traveling west bound on Chipaway road it is very difficult to see the end of Chipaway Road as it intersects with Bullock Road.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Freetown's Zoning Map by changing the zoning classification of Assessors' Map 206 Lot 17.01. The land being shown as Lot B containing 70,000 square feet (1.61 acres) as shown on a Plan of Land entitled "Plan Prepared for Simmons Family of Assonet, LLC and Francis and Lorraine Barboza, by S. Roy Land Surveying & Associates, last revision date October 2, 2007 recorded in the Bristol County (FR) Registry of deeds in Plan Book 144, Page 41 from Residential Use to General Use or take any action relative thereto. The proposed zoning map is on file for public viewing at the Office of the Town Clerk, Freetown Town Hall, 3 North Main Street, Assonet, MA.

Submitted by the Petition

Requires 2/3 Vote

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Freetown Protective By-Laws, Article 11 Zoning by Laws by deleting Section 11.11 in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the amended Section 11.11 Floodplain Overlay District By-law; and further, to amend the Zoning Map to include the Floodplain Overlay District; such amendments as on file in the Office of the Town Clerk; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Building Commissioner/
Zoning Enforcement Officer/Planning Board

Requires 2/3 Vote

Explanation: FEMA has issued the 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 to the town to avoid being suspended by FEMA from participating in the National Flood Insurance Program.

ARTICLE 20: 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 Dollars ($300.00) for the maintenance of veterans' graves in abandoned or neglected cemeteries, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Cemetery Commission

Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: M.G.L. Ch. 115, §9 requires the Town to maintain the graves of veterans in cemeteries which are abandoned, neglected, or for which the owner has made no lasting provisions.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to initiate the development of a municipal electricity aggregation program pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134, and any other enabling authority, including development of a plan detailing the process and consequences of municipal electricity aggregation, and to take all actions necessary to implement and administer such a program independently, or in joint action with other municipalities, retaining the right of individual residents and businesses to opt-out of the aggregation; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Town Administrator

Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: The will allow the town's resident to aggregate their electrical needs and competitively bid the supply side of their electrical bill. Residents may opt out of the program, which is designed to offer lower electrical rates than provided by the current utility.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation, substantially as follows; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments thereto before enactment by the General Court, which amendments shall be within the public purposes of said petition:

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF FREETOWN TO PAY A CERTAIN UNPAID BILL.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

SECTION 1. The Treasurer of the town of Freetown may pay, from sums appropriated, an unpaid bill incurred by the Town in the amount of $59,000, which is legally unenforceable against the town, to Architectural Consulting Group, LLC, for consulting services provided to the town in connection with a planning study with respect to the rehabilitation, reuse, consolidation, and reconstruction of certain town-owned buildings, notwithstanding the failure of the town to comply with the laws relative to procurement and competitive bidding in the awarding of the contract.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

and/or take any action relative thereto

Submitted by Town Administrator

Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: The passage of this special act will allow the Town Treasurer to pay, from sums appropriated, an unpaid bill incurred by the town in the amount of $59,000 that is due to Architectural Consulting Group, LLC for consulting services, which consisted of a planning study related to the rehabilitation, reuse, consolidation and reconstruction of certain town owned buildings, notwithstanding the failure of the town to comply with the laws relative to procurement and competitive bidding in the awarding of the contract.

ARTICLE 23: 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) for removal of dead and/or hazardous trees, and to pay wages and other activities associated with this, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Tree Warden Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: This Article provides funding for the Tree Warden for removal of dead trees and/or hazardous trees that have been devastated by infestations and to pay the salary and bills associated with this cost.

ARTICLE 24: 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, or take any other action thereon.

Direct Expenses:

Personnel Expenses	$65,727.00
Expenses	437,076.00
Debt	19,810.00
Total:	$522,613.00

and that $522,613.00 be raised from Water Enterprise Revenues

Submitted by the Water and Sewer Commission Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: To show that the Water Commission 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:

Salaries	$ 65,727.00
Purchased Water (FR & NB)	312,141.00
Pump & Filter Stations	29,000.00
Vehicle Expenses	6,250.00
Professional & Tech Services	72,250.00
Misc. Supplies & Unclassified Items	17,435.00
Booster Station Principle Debt	15,000.00
Booster Station Interest Debt	4,810.00
Subtotal:	$522,613.00

Indirect Expenses:

Health Insurance	$14,555.00
Pensions	3,505.00
Finance	9,899.00
Utilities & Maint.	2,242.00
IT Service	1,335.00
Subtotal:	$31,536.00

TOTAL EXPENSES: $554,149.00

Revenues:

Backflow Fees: $ 3,261.00

Water Sales:	456,744.00
Connection Fees:	12,000.00
Meter Service Changes:	32,144.00
ISP Charges:	50,000.00
TOTAL REVENUES:	**$554,149.00**

$522,613.00 to come from Water Enterprise Revenues;
$31,536.00 to be raised and appropriated in the General Fund operating budget and allocated to the enterprise fund for funding.

ARTICLE: 25: 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, or take any other action thereon.

Direct Expenses:

Personnel Expenses	$ 2,700.00
Expenses	198,050.00
Total:	$200,750.00

and that $200,750.00 be raised from Sewer Enterprise Revenues

Submitted by the Water and Sewer Commission Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: To show that the Sewer Commission 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	$ 2,700.00
Sewer Charge-Fall River	190,000.00
Vehicle Expenses	700.00
Professional & Tech Services	4,500.00
Misc. Supplies & Unclassified Items	2,850.00
Subtotal:	$200,750.00

Indirect Expenses:

Finance	1,099.00
Utilities & Maint.	242.00
IT Service	133.00
Subtotal:	$1,474.00

TOTAL EXPENSES:	**$202,224.00**
TOTAL REVENUES:	**$202,224.00**

$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.

ARTICLE 26: 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: This Article serves to fund the Stabilization Fund, which is the town's "rainy day" fund.

And you are hereby directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof at the following places: Assonet Post Office, East Freetown Post Office, the stores of Quick Pic in East 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 27th day of May, Anno Domini, Two Thousand Fourteen.

Lisa A. Pacheco
Chairman

Lee J. Baumgartner

Paul G. Sadeck

FREETOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN