



TOWN OF FREETOWN

**WARRANT
FOR THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2015 – 7:00 P.M.**

**FREETOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
43 BULLOCK ROAD, EAST FREETOWN, MASSACHUSETTS**

Bristol, ss:

To either of the Constables in the Town of Freetown, Greeting:

In the name of the Commonwealth you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Freetown who are qualified to vote in Town Affairs to meet in the Freetown Elementary School, Auditorium, 43 Bullock Road, East Freetown, Massachusetts, the Fifteenth day of June, 2015, at 7:00 P.M., then and there to act on the following Articles, viz:

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will approve the filing of an application with the Interagency Permitting Board for the designation of land at 0 South Main Street (Map 233, Parcel 30.04) as a Priority Development Site pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 43D, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

Requires Majority Vote

Explanation of Article:

This article will allow the above-mentioned parcel of property to be designated as a priority development site, making it eligible for the provisions of the streamlined permitting process.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will transfer from free cash the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) for projects and preparations related to Town compliance with the requirements of the EPA's upcoming Draft Massachusetts Small MS4 Permit; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

Requires Majority Vote

Explanation of Article:

Appropriation is being requested in order to plan and prepare for the new 5 year EPA permit expected to take effect in FY 2017. Some of the requirements for the program's first year can begin in FY2016 and will help spread the costs of developing the program over 2 fiscal years.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) to supplement the Town Accountant's Salary line item; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Kim Fales, Town Accountant

Requires Majority Vote

Explanation of Article:

Due to the resignation of the previous town accountant and the pay out of accrued vacation of \$4,542.00 there is a projected deficit in the personnel budget.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of Seven Hundred Forty Five Dollars (\$745.00), representing the Town's share of a DCR Volunteer Fire Assistance Program Grant, to purchase one thousand (1000) feet of new forestry hose for the fire department; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Gary Silvia, Fire Chief

Requires Majority Vote

Explanation of Article:

The fire department was awarded a VFA grant to purchase new forestry hose to replace lost or damaged hose during fire suppression efforts this past year. The cost for this equipment is reduced by taking advantage of these grant monies available to fire departments serving towns with populations under 10,000.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of Four Thousand One Hundred Eighty Eight Dollars (\$4,188.00) to pay the costs associated with training fire department Paramedics to meet the National Emergency Medical Scope of Practice requirements as adopted by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen and Gary Silvia, Fire Chief

Requires Majority Vote

Explanation of Article:

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 Paramedics and EMT Intermediates to the new standard prior to the expiration of their current certifications.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of Ten Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-Eight Dollars and Ninety Four Cents (\$10,558.94) from the Emergency Management Expense Line to the Emergency Management Salary line to pay the personnel costs for Communications Center, Fire Department, Police Department and Shelter staff, which costs were incurred during Winter Storm Juno (January 26-28, 2015); and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Emergency Management Director

Requires Majority Vote

Explanation of Article: The article is necessary to transfer funds within the Emergency Management Budget to cover the cost of additional public safety personnel and protective measures that were in place during Winter Storm Juno this past January pending any FEMA reimbursement.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of Two Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Five Dollars (\$2,455.00) to pay for the Annual Compliance Fee for 2 County Road assessed by DEP, which amount was not previously appropriated, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

Requires Majority Vote

Explanation of Article:

This Article serves to pay for a bill which was not known about, therefore not appropriated for at our Annual Town Meeting last year.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Water Enterprise retained earnings the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00) to supplement the operating expenses of the Water Enterprise Fund; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Water and Sewer Commission

Requires Majority Vote

Explanation of Article:

The Water and Sewer commission would like to transfer from their Water Enterprise Retained Earnings account to the Water Enterprise Operating budget to help pay for the water system operations for FY15.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash to the Water Enterprise Fund the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) to purchase water lines and steel protective sleeves to be installed at the three railroad crossings (Elm, High and Copicut) ; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Freetown Water and Sewer Commission

Requires Majority Vote

Explanation of Article:

The MBTA along with the South Coast Rail are required to complete grade crossing improvements at Elm St., High St., and Copicut Rd. If we install these sleeves and pipes now it will eliminate the need to spend approximately \$300,000.00 after the grade crossings have been completed. The water lines and sleeves will allow for expansion of our current system in the future.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to fix the annual salary and compensation of the Highway Surveyor and Town Clerk 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.

	<u>Current</u> <u>Compensation</u>	<u>Requested</u> <u>Compensation</u>
Highway Surveyor	\$62,019.00	\$62,719.00
Town Clerk	\$49,195.00	\$49,895.00

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

Requires 2/3 Vote

Explanation of Article:

This Article only establishes the annual salary for these elected officials. Funds were already appropriated at the ATM held on June 16, 2014.

[Because this action is being taken at the Special Town Meeting, a two-thirds vote is required for passage.]

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free cash the sum of One Hundred Thirty-Three Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars (\$133,665.00) to pay a portion of the Freetown-Lakeville Regional School District transportation costs, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

Requires Majority Vote

Explanation of Article: This will pay for Freetown's portion of the Freetown-Lakeville Regional School District transportation costs.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Three Thousand Five Hundred Forty-Two Dollars (\$3,542.00) for transportation assessment costs and the sum of Thirty-One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Six Dollars (\$31,996.00) for education assessment costs for Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

Requires Majority Vote

Explanation of Article: This is to pay for the transportation and education of Freetown students that attend Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 44 Sec 53F $\frac{3}{4}$ for the purpose of creating a cable television public access enterprise fund, and, in connection therewith, to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Twenty-Four Thousand Four Hundred Seven Dollars (\$24,407.00) representing revenues received by the Town for cable-license or cable-television related services, to said fund, to be effective for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015; and further, to transfer from said fund or from previously received cable television license proceeds or otherwise fund a sum of money as a grant for PEG purposes, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a grant agreement for the expenditure of such funds for cable-related purposes in accordance with law and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

Requires Majority Vote

Explanation of Article: The State legislature recently added Section 2 to allow local acceptance of MGL Ch44§53F $\frac{3}{4}$ to allow a community to set up an enterprise fund to reserve cable franchise fees for appropriation to pay for contracted PEG services and annual licenses fees for cable regulatory oversight purposes. The sum of \$24,407 is the amount the Town collected for these fees in FY14 and is included as part of the current certified free cash.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to transfer Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) from Free Cash for the purpose of updating a 3 year actuarial OPEB study; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

Requires Majority Vote

Explanation of Article: GASB requires the Town to present financial information for Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB). The information must be updated every 3 years. The last study covered 2012-2014, so a new study for 2015-2017 is necessary.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise, for the purpose of development of affordable senior housing, the land located off Acushnet Avenue in the Town of Acushnet adjacent to a piece of Town-owned property on 2 County Rd. (Map 245, Lot 90) Freetown, and depicted as Lot 1 on Acushnet Assessors' Map 1 and more particularly described in the deed recorded with the Bristol South Registry of Deeds in Book 1810, Page 315, including any assignment of rights held by the Town of Acushnet to collect property taxes owed on the property; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey or assign such interest in land or portion thereof to the Freetown Housing Authority or other appropriate public or non-profit entity for such purposes, all upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate; and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute such instruments and documents and take such other action as may be necessary to carry out the vote taken hereunder, including application, acceptance and expenditure of any grants or gifts that may be available for such purposes; and further to petition the General Court as may be needed to effectuate the purposes of this vote, provided that the General Court may make clerical and editorial changes of form only to the bill unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill prior to enactment by the General Court, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to approve such amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition; and/or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

Requires Majority Vote

Explanation of Article: Favorable action on this Article will make it possible for the Selectmen to work with the Acushnet Selectmen to acquire land in Acushnet needed to build 64 units of Senior Housing on the two parcels (2 County Rd. in Freetown and Lot 1 off Acushnet Ave., the adjacent parcel in Acushnet). The Selectmen would then assign the land to the Freetown Housing Authority to oversee the development and operation of the affordable senior housing complex, as outlined in the "Freetown Senior Housing Feasibility Analysis" prepared for the Freetown Housing Authority by STANTEC Consultant Services, Inc., Bluestone Planning Group and Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds the sum of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) for preparation of an engineering report to address the environmental conditions at and removal and remediation of contamination, if any, on the land off Acushnet Avenue in the Town of Acushnet, depicted as Lot 1 on Acushnet Assessors' Map 1 and more particularly described in the deed recorded with the Bristol South Registry of Deeds in Book 1810, Page 315, including any costs incidental and related thereto, such report to be used by the Town to qualify for grant funds for the cleanup and remediation of the subject property; and/or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

Requires Majority Vote

Explanation of Article: This article provides for funding for an engineering report regarding property to be acquired in Acushnet for affordable senior housing purposes, with such report to be used to obtain grant funding for the cleanup of the property.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Seven Hundred Forty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Nine Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$745,769.50) to undertake repairs to the Richmond Road Bridge, and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said sum pursuant to G. L. c. 44, §7 subsection 4, or any other applicable statutory authority; provided, however, that the borrowing authorized under this Article shall be contingent upon passage of a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion referendum question in accordance with G.L. c.59, §21C (k); and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

Requires 2/3 Vote

Explanation of Article: The Richmond Rd. Bridge has been inspected by the State and found to be in disrepair. Because of the deterioration this must be fixed or there will be a weight limit imposed on it. The Bridge serves as a "connector" between Assonet and Berkley. The expected completion date will be September 2015.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 10 of the Town's General Bylaws, Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan, by deleting the existing language in its entirety and replacing it with the language as on file in the office of the Town Clerk; and/or take any other action in relation thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

Requires Majority Vote

Explanation of Article: This Article serves to update the Personnel and Classification Bylaw.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash 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 of Article: Move money not used at the STM to savings.

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.

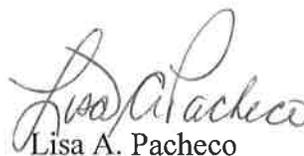
Given under our hands and seal of the Town of Freetown, this 28th day of May, Anno Domini, Two Thousand fifteenth.



Lee J. Baumgartner
Chairman



Paul G. Sadeck



Lisa A. Pacheco

FREETOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN