

WARRANT
FOR THE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF FREETOWN
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MONDAY, JUNE 06, 2016 -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 Sixth day of June, 2016, 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 2017, 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 2017, and/or take any action relative thereto.

FIGURES INDICATE ANNUAL SALARIES OR HOURLY PAYRATES.

	VOTED	SELECTMEN	FINANCE	DEPT.
	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>RECOMMENDED</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>REQUEST</u>
		<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>RECOMMENDED</u>	
			<u>FY2017</u>	
Moderator	\$ 413.00	\$	\$	413.00
Board of Selectmen (each)	6,000.00			6,000.00
Town Clerk	51,392.00			52,420.00
Board of Assessors (each)	4,192.00			4,192.00
Tree Warden	20.48			20.48
Highway Surveyor	64,600.57			64,600.57
Reg. Dist. Sch. Com (each)	1,106.00			1,106.00

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: *Elected officials are not covered under Article 10 of the PERSONNEL CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION PLAN or under union contract. This is the only avenue to adjust elected official salaries to keep pace with inflation and contractual increases to other employees.*

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 71, sec. 16(d), or any other authority, to approve the bond authorization voted on April 27, 2016 by the Freetown-Lakeville Regional School District School Committee in the amount of \$510,000.00 for the purpose of paying costs of reconstructing the District's swimming pool, including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: This Article allows the Town to consider approval of the borrowing authorized by the Freetown-Lakeville Regional School District in the amount of \$510,000.00 for the purpose of paying costs of reconstructing the District's swimming pool.

ARTICLE 4: 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) to pay for the public 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 5: To see if the Town will vote to authorize revolving funds for certain town departments, 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 FY2017 shall be the following amounts or any other amounts; and/or to 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 of 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.	\$280.00
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	\$5,375.00

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 6: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500.00) 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, 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 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of Thirty One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$31,500.00) to fund the first year of a contract for the Interim Year Adjustment of Assessed Values for FY2017 as required by Massachusetts General Law and the Department of Revenue, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Freetown Board of Assessors

Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: This Article funds the first year of a 3 year contract negotiated between PK Valuations Group and the Town of Freetown.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$9,900.00) to fund the software license that allows the Assessors to value property and the webhosting of the Assessing data provided by PK Valuations Group, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Freetown Board of Assessors

Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: This Article funds the annual software license and putting the Assessment data on the Freetown Town Website.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) to repair and maintain Town owned buildings, grounds and vehicles, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: This Article is intended to obtain funds to repair and maintain Town owned buildings, grounds and vehicles.

ARTICLE 10: 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 town as provided by M. G. L. Chapter 115, Section 9.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to approve the sum of \$550,000 to operate the Water Enterprise Fund, with an appropriation for as follows:

Direct Expenses:

Personnel	\$76,562.00	
Expenses	\$425,206.00	
Total	\$501,768.00	in the Water Enterprise Fund

And the sum of \$48,232 for indirect costs appropriated in the general fund as part of the Omnibus Budget, with all amounts, \$550,000 funded with Water Enterprise receipts, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Water and Sewer Commission

Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: This is the operating budget for the Water Enterprise fund presented in accordance with M.G.L. chapter 44, section 53F ½.

Total Water Enterprise Budget (information purposes only)

Direct Expenses:

Salaries	\$ 76,562
Purchase of Services	\$ 387,629
Purchase of Supplies	\$ 16,200
Other Charges	\$ 1,250
Replacement equipment	\$ 1,000
Debt Service	\$ 19,127
Subtotal	\$ 501,768

Indirect Costs (in the general fund):

Finance	\$ 12,712
Utilities	\$ 967
IT service	\$ 609
Insurance	\$ 18,961
Retirement	\$ 12,261
Gen'l Admin	\$ 2,762
Less Int Credit	\$ - 40
Subtotal	\$ 48,232

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to approve the sum of \$207,348 to operate the Sewer Enterprise Fund, with an appropriation as follows:

Direct Expenses:

Personnel:	\$ 3,324
Expenses:	<u>\$ 195,550</u>
Total:	\$ 198,874 in the Sewer Enterprise fund

And the sum of \$ 8,474 for indirect costs appropriated in the general fund as part of the Omnibus Budget, with all amounts, \$207,348 funded with Sewer Enterprise receipts, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Water and Sewer Commission

Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: This is the operating budget for the Sewer Enterprise fund presented in accordance with M.G.L. chapter 44, section 53F ½.

Total Sewer Enterprise Budget (information purposes only)

Direct Expenses:

Salaries	\$ 3,324
Sewer charge- Fall River	\$ 190,000
Vehicle expenses	\$ 700
Professional & Tech	\$ 3,000
Replacement equipment	\$ 1,000
Misc Supplies	<u>\$ 850</u>
Subtotal	\$ 198,874

Indirect Costs (in the general fund):

Finance	\$ 1,654
Utilities	\$ 290
IT service	\$ 234
Insurance	\$ 3,311
Retirement	\$ 2,024
Gen'l Admin	\$ 1,061
Less Int Credit	<u>\$ - 100</u>
Subtotal	\$ 8,474

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to accept as a Town way the roadway entitled **Costa Drive**, in its entirety for a length of 750 feet, as heretofore laid out by the Board of Selectmen and shown on a plan entitled "Street Acceptance Plan, dated 03/22/16," prepared by SFG Associates Inc, 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 Costa Drive 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; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: This Article will allow Costa Drive to be accepted as a Town Roadway.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to accept as a Town way the roadway entitled **Extensions of King Philip Way and Jordan Lane**, in its entirety for a length of 1331.81 feet, as heretofore laid out by the Board of Selectmen and shown on a plan entitled "Street Acceptance Plan, dated 10/06/15," prepared by Alan Ewing Engineering, 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 Extensions of King Philip Way and Jordan Lane 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; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: This Article will allow Extensions of King Philip Way and Jordan Lane to be accepted as a Town Roadway.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Freetown Protective By Laws, Article 11 Zoning by Laws by deleting Section 11.23 in its entirety and inserting in place therefore a new Section 11.23 Site Plan Review, the text of which is as on file in the Office of the Town Clerk and the Planning Board; further, to amend the Town of Freetown Protective By-Laws, Article 11 Zoning By-Laws Outline, to include this section; and further, that non-substantive changes to the numbering of this by-law be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Planning Board

Requires 2/3 Vote

Explanation: This would replace the existing Site Plan Review Bylaw with more comprehensive information; thresholds are now established for different levels of review, clarifications have been made related to procedure and approval, and a design standard has been implemented.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Freetown Protective By-laws, Article 11 Zoning By-laws, by adding new Section 11.31 Off-Street Parking and Loading Regulations, the text of which is as on file in the Office of the Town Clerk and the Planning Board; further, to amend the Town of Freetown Protective By-laws, Article 11 Zoning By-laws Outline, to include this new Section 11.31; and further that non-substantive changes to the numbering of this by-law be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Planning Board

Requires 2/3 Vote

Explanation: This would implement a standard and guidelines for parking in Town.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Freetown Protective By-laws, **Article 11 Zoning By-laws, Section 2 Definitions** to include definitions for “Gross Floor Area”, “Landfill”, and “Parking Bay”. A copy of the proposed changes to the Town of Freetown Protective By-laws may be viewed at the office of the Town Clerk, Freetown Town Hall, 3 North Main Street, Assonet, MA.

And/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Planning Board

Requires 2/3 Vote

Explanation: This article updates the definitions section to clarify language included elsewhere in the bylaw.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Freetown Protective By-laws, **Article 11 Zoning By-laws, Section 11.18 Zoning Districts (I) Table of Use Regulations** by inserting “Landfill” in the table as follows:

See proposed addition to the table of use regulations below

Use	R	B	I	I/2	G	OSR	VR	VB
Landfill	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N

And/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Planning Board

Requires 2/3 Vote

Explanation: This article would prohibit the operation of a landfill facility in Freetown.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of supplementing the Capital Stabilization Fund, or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Town Accountant for the Board of Selectmen

Requires 2/3 Vote

Explanation: This appropriation would add funds to the Capital Stabilization Fund to be used for purchasing capital assets or payment of related debt service on capital assets. Any proposed use of the fund would require a 2/3 vote of town meeting.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the care, custody, and control of the following parcels of land taken by the Town for nonpayment of taxes from the tax title custodian as held for tax title purposes to the Conservation Commission for conservation purposes under the provisions of Section 8C of Chapter 40 of the General Laws, and further to dedicate and designate the parcels for conservation purposes subject to the protections of the Article 97:

1. Parcels shown as lots 34 and 35 on Assessors' Map 207, with addresses of 0 Richmond Road and 0 Forge Pond. For title of the Town, see final judgements recorded in the Bristol County Registry of Deeds, Fall River District, at Book 2839, Page 33; and Book 2856, Page 315.
2. Parcels shown as lots 38 and 39 on Assessors' Map 230, with addresses of 0 High Plain Street. For title of the Town, see final judgement recorded in the Bristol County Registry of Deeds, Fall River District, at Book 6611, Page 195.

And/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Conservation Commission

Requires Majority Vote

Explanation: This article would take parcels of land that the Town has owned since 1994 and 2007 and place them under the care of the Conservation Commission. The parcels on Richmond Road and Forge Pond would provide public access to the river above the old Forge Pond Dam and also protect the old icehouse site. The parcel at High Plains would provide access to landlocked land owned by the Conservation Commission since 1972 and protect wetlands in the area.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of supplementing the Stabilization Fund, or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Town Accountant for the Board of Selectmen

Required 2/3 Vote

Explanation: This appropriation would add funds to the Stabilization Fund for the Town to be used as a "rainy day" fund. Any proposed use of the fund would require a 2/3 vote of town meeting.

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 18th day of May, Anno Domini, Two Thousand Sixteen.



Paul G. Sadeck
Chairman



Lisa A. Pacheco



Robert Jose

FREETOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN

