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# **Warrant for the Special Town Meeting**

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**Town of Freetown  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**Monday, June 6, 2022  
7:00 pm**

**Apponequet Regional High School  
Robert C. Falcon Auditorium  
100 Howland Road, Lakeville, MA 02347**

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BRISTOL, SS:

To either of the Constables of 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 the Elections and Town Affairs to meet at Apponequet Regional High School, 100 Howland Road, Lakeville, Massachusetts, on Monday, the Sixth day of June, 2022, at 7:00 P.M., then and there to act on the following Articles, viz:



**Warrant for the  
Special Town Meeting**

**Monday, June 6, 2022, at 7:00pm**

**Apponequet Regional High School  
Robert C. Falcon Auditorium  
100 Howland Road, Lakeville, MA 02347**

**Article: 1                      Management Information Systems Upgrades**

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To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from free cash the sum of Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$55,000.00) for online permitting and necessary server upgrades, including any costs incidental and related thereto; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

Requires Majority Vote

Recommended by Finance Committee & Board of Selectmen

*Explanation of Article: The funding of this article will allow for a new email server for Town Hall and online permitting for Building Department and Town Clerk.*

**Article: 2                      Funding of Tasers for Police Station**

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To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from free cash the sum of Ninety Thousand Two Dollars (\$90,002.00) to replace existing tasers that are malfunctioning and out of warranty date, including any costs incidental and related thereto; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Police Chief

Requires Majority Vote

Recommended by Finance Committee & Board of Selectmen

*Explanation of Article: To replace existing tasers that are malfunctioning and out of warranty date for the Police Station.*

**Article: 3                      Capital Projects to Fund from Free Cash**

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To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sums of money as specified herein for the following Capital Projects, including any costs incidental, and related thereto, and/or take any action relative thereto.

| Project Name                  | \$ Amount          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Town Hall Security Upgrades   | \$25,000.00        |
| Town Hall Window Replacements | \$30,000.00        |
| Election Tabulators           | \$21,800.00        |
| F350 Pickup with plow-Highway | <u>\$39,000.00</u> |
|                               | \$115,800.00       |

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

Requires Majority Vote

Recommended by Finance Committee & Board of Selectmen

*Explanation of Article: To see if the Town will fund the following capital projects: 1.) Town Hall Security System: The current security system in the Town Hall was installed many years ago and is not working properly. 2.) Town Hall Window Replacement: Money has been appropriated to replace Town Hall Windows in prior years capital budget, but it is not enough, this will supplement those funds so the project can be completed. 3.) Voting Tabulators: The voting tabulators are outdated and need repair. 4.) Highway Department F350 pickup truck. This will be replacing a 2011 pickup truck that is not reliable.*

**Article: 4                      Reallocate Funds Appropriated for Police Station Building**

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To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 1 of the November 18, 2018, Town Meeting, to transfer the sum of Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000) previously appropriated thereunder for the Police Station Building Project for the purpose of purchasing equipment to improve the radio communications in the public safety departments, including all costs incidental and related thereto; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

Requires Majority Vote

Recommended by Finance Committee & Board of Selectmen

*Explanation of Article: To reallocate \$400,000 from Police Station Building to be utilized for improvement of public safety departments communications which includes the purchase and installation of equipment for three radio towers as well as the purchase of new radios.*

**Article: 5                      Purchase of Equipment to Improve Public Safety Communication**

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To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from free cash the sum of Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$800,000) to purchase equipment to improve the radio communications in the public safety departments which includes but is not limited to purchasing and installing the equipment on three towers and the purchase of new radios for the public safety departments , including all costs incidental and related thereto; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Chief of Police and Fire Chief

Requires Majority Vote

Recommended by Finance Committee & Board of Selectmen

*Explanation of Article: To appropriate and transfer from free cash \$800,000 to purchase the equipment to improve the radio communications for the public safety departments. If the prior article should pass the amount of this article will be decreased to \$400,000.*

**Article: 6                      Tower Leases for Public Safety Communications**

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To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a lease or leases with Industrial Tower and Wireless LLC, and American Tower Corporation for

telecommunications purposes on portions of land, including space on radio towers, to better improve communications for public safety departments, such leasing to be undertaken in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 30B, sec. 16 upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen determine to be in the best interest of the Town, the terms of such lease or leases to exceed three years; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into such agreements and execute such instruments as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this article; and further to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of Forty-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$48,000.00) for such lease or leases; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Police & Fire Chiefs  
Requires Two-Thirds Vote

Recommended by Finance Committee & Board of Selectmen

*Explanation of Article: To see if the Town will approve lease agreements. Leasing space on two existing towers will improve the communications for public safety departments.*

**Article : 7** **Possible Purchase 2 South Main Street**

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To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by gift, purchase, and/or eminent domain, certain property located at 2 South Main Street, being Assessor's Map 211-175-0, and described in a deed recorded with the Bristol (Fall River) Registry of Deeds in Book 3224, Page 321, and to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds, a sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$151,000) for the purpose of funding said acquisition and costs incidental or related thereto, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into such agreements and execute such instruments as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this article; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen  
Requires Two-Thirds Vote

Recommended by Board of Selectmen. Finance Committee does not recommend

*Explanation of Article: to see if the Town will approve the purchase of the property located at 2 South Main Street, Assonet, MA. This property abuts 4 South Main Street which the Town currently owns. Purchasing this additional property will allow for additional parking for the Town Hall and Library Employees. In the future it may provide an area where a septic system could be installed for the adjacent property at 4 South Main Street. Currently, 4 South Main Street does not have any land available for a septic system.*

**Article: 8** **Fund the installation of a parking lot 2 S. Main St.**

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To see if the Town will vote to, appropriate and transfer from free cash in the amount of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to undertake construction, including the necessary site preparation, to create a parking lot annex for Town Hall and Library on the property located at 2 S. Main Street, including any costs incidental, and related thereto; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

Requires Majority Vote

Recommended by Board of Selectmen. Finance Committee does not recommend

*Explanation of Article: To see if the Town will fund the installation of an Annex Parking Lot for Town Hall and Library at 2 S. Main Street.*

**Article: 9                      Transfer from Health Insurance Budget line to OPEB Fund**

To see if the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from free cash Two Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Dollars and Forty-Nine Cents (\$229,950.49) to supplement funding in the OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) fund; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

Requires a Majority Vote

Recommended by Finance Committee & Board of Selectmen

*Explanation of Article: To see if the Town will transfer from free cash an amount equal to the unused funds at the end of fiscal year 2021 in Health Insurance Budget to fund OPEB. The OPEB Fund will be paying for the retirement benefits of municipal employees in the future. It is currently underfunded, and the addition of these unused funds will help to get the Town closer to being adequately funded.*

**Article: 10                      Evaluation of Town Campus on Chace Rd/Memorial Dr.**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from free cash the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) to hire a firm to evaluate existing conditions of the fifty-two (52) acre parcel located at Chace Rd/Memorial Dr., including delineating the wetlands, locating existing structures, mapping the topography, and determining possible locations for future buildings for the Town use on the Fifty-Two (52) acres of land the Town owns on Chace/Memorial Drive, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

Requires Majority Vote

Recommended by Finance Committee & Board of Selectmen

*Explanation of Article: To hire a firm to make a site plan for the fifty-two-acre (52) acres of Town owned land located on Chace Rd/Memorial Dr. in East Freetown for the purpose of determining placement of future Town Buildings. This would include delineating the wetlands, locating existing structures, topography of the land, and determining possible locations for future buildings for the Town use.*

**Article: 11                      Feasibility Study for Town Buildings**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from free cash the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to update the feasibility study for the Town owned buildings that was completed in 2014; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

Requires Majority Vote

Recommended by Finance Committee & Board of Selectmen

*Explanation of Article: To hire a firm to provide an updated feasibility study for the Town owned buildings to determine the most economical way to meet the Town of Freetown's future needs.*

**Article: 12                      Repair or Restoration of monuments in various cemeteries**

To see if the Town will vote in accordance with General Laws Chapter 114, Section 18, to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds, the sum of Seventy-five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00) for the repair or restoration of monuments in various cemeteries, including any costs incidental and related thereto; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Cemetery Commission

Requires Majority Vote

Recommended by Finance Committee & Board of Selectmen

*Explanation of Article: The Cemetery Commission has repaired/restored monuments in the Assonet Burying Ground for several years using perpetual care funds. And would now like to begin repairing/restoring monuments in some of the older cemeteries that do not have perpetual care. We were allotted \$2,500.00 for this purpose previously, which went very quickly in FY22, and are therefore requesting additional funds to be able to accomplish more.*

**Article: 13                      Adding Funds to Conservation Land Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds the sum of Fifteen Thousand Six Hundred Thirty-Five Dollars and Fifty-Seven Cents (\$15,635.57) to be added to the Conservation land Fund established under M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 8C, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Conservation Commission

Requires Majority Vote

Recommended by Finance Committee & Board of Selectmen

*Explanation of Article: Rollback taxes generally represent open land being slated for development, and a well-funded Land Fund would allow the future purchase of open land to protect it from development. These funds represent the amount collected for rollback taxes in Fiscal Years 2020 & 2021.*

**Article: 14    Repurpose Monies for Infrastructure Needs - Freetown Elementary School**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 14 of the June 20, 2020 Annual Town Meeting to repurpose remaining funds of Fifty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Nine Dollars and Eighty-One Cents (\$53,969.81) originally designated to be used for a Wireless Network Infrastructure Project at Freetown Lakeville Regional School District to purchase technology related supplies for the Freetown Elementary School, including any necessary installation thereof and any costs incidental and related thereto; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Director of Finance Freetown-Lakeville School District  
Requires Majority Vote  
Recommended by Finance Committee & Board of Selectmen

*Explanation of Article: This article would repurpose remaining funds designated in Article 14 at June 20, 2020 Annual Town Meeting of \$53,969.81 to fund technology expenditures specifically to benefit Freetown Elementary School Expenditures would consist of the following:*

***Carts for Chromebook storage in classrooms.*** Currently Freetown Elementary School (FE) has a mix of open and closed Chromebook storage/charging carts for classrooms. This purchase will be for uniform charging carts for all classrooms at Freetown Elementary.

***A new Server to run the network at the Freetown Elementary School.*** Right now, Freetown Elementary has an older model server to perform the Windows functions for the school like Active Directory. A new server will increase performance and reliability and match the capabilities at FES.

***Desktop computers for teaching staff and front office.*** Desktop computers will be updated for staff specifically working at FES.

***Document Cameras and speakers.*** The District will replace old models and standardize models for the Freetown Elementary School.

A document camera allows teachers to capture an area of interest and use the content for pre-recorded videos and live presentations. Document cameras magnify objects and make them easier to see on a student's mobile phone, a projector, and any computer that's used to display the image.

*The overall benefit to the District is to free up assets at FES for use as spares at other schools. New carts at FES will allow us to better organize carts at FES. New desktops will allow the District to use the existing desktops as spares/replacement at other schools. Estimated expenditures will equal or exceed \$45,658.44.*

#### **Article 15                      Chipaway Pump Station backup generator**

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To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from available funds the sum of Fifty Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and no cents (\$50,500.00) for the Chipaway Pump Station backup generator system including any necessary installation thereof and any costs incidental and related thereto; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Water & Sewer Commission  
Requires Majority Vote  
Recommended by Finance Committee & the Board of Selectmen

*Explanation of Article: This article is for the purpose of purchasing and installing a backup generator system for the Chipaway Pump Station so in the event of a power outage the pressure is maintained to adequately serve our customers. In addition, the computerized control system is*

*over 20 years old, and parts are no longer available for the system. Before a major failure takes place, we would like to upgrade the control system.*

**Article : 16                      Replacement of three fire hydrants**

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To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) for the replacement of three fire hydrants on East Chipaway Road, South Main Street, Innovation Way, including any incidental and related costs, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Freetown Water & Sewer Commission

Requires Majority Vote

Recommended by Finance Committee & Board of Selectmen

*Explanation of Article: This article is for the purpose of obtaining funds to replace two fire hydrants that were destroyed by hit and run motorists, and one that is not operational. These hydrants serve as a vital water source for the Town of Freetown Fire Department and allow access to water to help aid in fighting fires in and around the areas of East Chipaway Road, South Main Street and Innovation Way.*

**Article: 17                      Addition of Employment Positions to By-laws**

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To see if the Town will vote to amend the General By-laws, Article 10, Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan, Section 10.8, Positions, by adding the following new positions: Confidential Secretary – Police Department , Town Planner, Conservation Agent, Facilities Manager, Town Planner/Conservation Agent and Human Resource Director to the list of positions contained therein; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Town Administrator

Requires Majority Vote

Recommended by Board of Selectmen. Finance Committee takes no position on this article.

*Explanation of Article: The Confidential Secretary is an existing position that needs to be included under the personnel & classification by-law for proper administration of compensation and benefits. Town Planner, Conservation Agent, Facilities Manager, Town Planner/Conservation Agent, and Human Resource Director would be new positions this would allow the Town to hire personnel for these positions when/if the need arises.*

**Article : 18                      Supplement to the Capital Stabilization Fund**

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To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from free cash and/or overlay surplus the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the purpose of supplementing the Capital Stabilization Fund, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

Requires Majority Vote

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Finance Committee Recommends Available Funds

*Explanation of Article: 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.*



And you are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting arrested September 11, 2020 at the following places: the Assonet Post Office, the East Freetown Post Office, Junior's Convenience Store in Assonet, the Freetown Town Hall, Freetown Communications Center, and Freetown Fire-Rescue Station #3. 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 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, Anno Domini, Two Thousand Twenty-Two.

**The Town of Freetown Board of Selectmen**



Trevor R. Matthews



Jared C. Zager



Carlos A. Lopes

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# **Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting**

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**Town of Freetown  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**Monday, June 6, 2022**

**7:30 pm**

**Apponequet Regional High School  
Robert C. Falcon Auditorium  
100 Howland Road, Lakeville, MA 02347**

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BRISTOL, SS:

To either of the Constables of 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 the Elections and Town Affairs to meet at Apponequet Regional High School, 100 Howland Road, Lakeville, Massachusetts, on Monday, the Sixth day of June, 2022, at 7:30 P.M., then and there to act on the following Articles, viz:



**Warrant for the  
Annual Town Meeting**

**Monday, June 6, 2022, at 7:30pm**

**Apponequet Regional High School**

**Robert C. Falcon Auditorium  
100 Howland Road, Lakeville, MA 02347**

**Article 1: Town of Freetown Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Budget**

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 2023, viz: General Government, Public Safety, Health & Human Services, Public Works, Education, Culture & Recreation, Interest and Principal Debt, Town Wide Fueling, and Unclassified: SRPEDD Assessment, Retirement, Insurances, Medicare and Transfers, Capital Equipment, Capital Building & Other Property Improvements, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen  
Requires Majority Vote

Recommended by Board of Selectmen. Finance Committee recommends \$29,864,540.72

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

**Article 2: Salary & Compensation of Elected Officers of the Town of Freetown**

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 and Chapter 71, Section 52 of the General Laws, as amended, for the Fiscal Year 2023, and/or take any action relative thereto.

|  | <i><b>Voted<br/>FY 2022</b></i> | <i><b>Departmental<br/>FY 2023 Request</b></i> | <i><b>Recommendation<br/>of Finance<br/>Committee &amp;<br/>Selectmen</b></i> |
|--|---------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Moderator</b>                                     | \$150/meeting                   | \$165.00/meeting                               | \$165.00/meeting  |
| <b>Board of Selectmen (Each)</b>                     | \$6,000.00/year                 | \$6,000.00/year                                | \$6,000.00/year   |
| <b>Town Clerk</b>                                    | \$65,000.00/year                | \$66,950.00/year                               | \$66,950.00/year  |
| <b>Board of Assessors (Each)</b>                     | \$5,000.00/year                 | \$5,000.00/year                                | \$5,000.00/year   |
| <b>Tree Warden</b>                                   | \$22.00/hour                    | \$23.00/hour                                   | \$23.00/hour  |
| <b>Highway Surveyor</b>                              | \$74,152.00/year                | \$75,647.00/year                               | \$75,647.00/year  |
| <b>Regional District School<br/>Committee (Each)</b> | \$1,106.00/year                 | \$1,106.00/year                                | \$1,106.00/year   |

**Water-Sewer Commissioners  
(Each)**

\$250.00/year

\$250.00/year

\$250.00/year

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

Requires Majority Vote

Finance Committee recommends Dept Req Amounts Recommended by Board of Selectmen

*Explanation of Article: Elected officials are not covered under Article 10 of the Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan or under a 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                      Operating Budget of the Water-Sewer Enterprise Fund**

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To see if the Town will vote to approve the sum of One Million Three Hundred Fifty-Three Dollars (1,353,941.00) to operate the Water-Sewer Enterprise Fund for FY 2023, with an appropriation for the following direct expenses:

Personnel:     \$95,836.00

Expenses:     \$ 1,183,105.00

Total:           \$1,278,941.00 in the Water-Sewer Enterprise fund and the sum of \$75,000.00 for indirect costs appropriated in the general fund as part of the Omnibus Budget, with all costs totaling \$1,353,941.00 and supported with \$33,705.00 from certified retained earnings and with \$1,320,236.00 from Water-Sewer Enterprise receipts, and/or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Water & Sewer Commission

Requires Majority Vote

Recommended by the Finance Committee & the Board of Selectmen

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

Total Water-Sewer Enterprise Budget (information purposes only)

**Direct Expenses:**

|                            |                |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Salaries                   | \$ 95,836.00   |
| Purchase of Services       | \$1,105,500.00 |
| Purchase of Supplies       | \$ 20,500.00   |
| Other Charges              | \$ 3,400.00    |
| Replacement equipment      | \$ 20,000.00   |
| Unforeseen Reserve         | \$ 33,705.00   |
| Debt Service (ST interest) | <u>\$ 0.00</u> |
| Subtotal                   | \$1,278,941.00 |

**Indirect Costs (in the general fund):**

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Finance         | \$ 15,400       |
| Utilities       | \$ 800          |
| IT service      | \$ 400          |
| Insurance       | \$ 29,600       |
| Retirement      | \$ 27,000       |
| Gen'l Admin     | \$ 1,900        |
| Less Int Credit | <u>\$ - 100</u> |
| Subtotal        | \$ 75,000       |

**Article : 4** **Establish a Vaccine Revolving Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws, Article 29, Revolving Funds, Section 29-6, Authorized Revolving Funds, by inserting therein the following language creating an additional revolving fund, said fund to be used by the Board of Health, pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2, of the Massachusetts General Laws, as follows:

| <b>REVOLVING FUND<br/>PROGRAM/PURPOSE</b>  | <b>DEPARTMENT RECEIPT<br/>TO BE CREDITS TO FUND</b>                                 | <b>REPRESENTATIVE<br/>AUTHORIZED TO<br/>SPEND</b> |
|--|---|---|
| BOH Vaccination Program-<br>Offset cost of vaccines, supplies,<br>wages and capital needs. | Fees collected from medical<br>billing for vaccines and admin-<br>strative charges. | Public Health Nurse                               |

And, further, to establish a fiscal year spending limit of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) for said new revolving fund, and to transfer from available funds the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) for the purpose of purchasing an initial supply of vaccines along with medical supplies related to administration of the vaccines; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Health  
Requires Majority Vote  
Recommended by Finance Committee & Board of Selectmen

*Explanation of Article: The Board of Health, through the efforts of the Public Health Nurse, received an NPI number, along with Medicare billing privileges for the administration of vaccines. The establishment of this revolving fund would allow receipts from medical billing to be used to offset the cost of the vaccines, medical supplies and wages of medical personnel giving injections.*

**Article : 5** **Spending Limits for Assorted Revolving Funds**

To see if the Town will vote to establish the following fiscal year spending limits for each revolving fund established under Article 29 of the General By-laws, and/or take any action relative thereto:

| <i>Authorized Revolving Fund</i>                   | <i>FY 2023 Expenditure<br/>Limit</i> |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Board of Selectmen<br/>Annual Town Report</b>   | \$500.00                             |
| <b>Police Department<br/>Exams</b>                 | \$100.00                             |
| <b>Police Department<br/>Firearm Safety Course</b> | \$7,000.00                           |

**Board of Selectmen  
Long Pond**

\$14,000.00

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen  
Requires Majority Vote

Recommended by Finance Committee & Board of Selectmen

*Explanation of Article: This article establishes the annual spending limit of expenditures for authorized departmental revolving funds.*

**Article : 6      Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) study**

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To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds, the sum of Seven Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$7,200.00) for the purpose of updating a two-year actuarial Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) study, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Town Treasurer/Tax Collector  
Requires Majority Vote

Recommended by Finance Committee & Board of Selectmen

*Explanation of Article: To see if the town will transfer \$7,200.00 from available funds to update two-year actuarial OPEB study. The study is required to be done by an actuary for financial statement compliance, due to the adoption of Statement Nos. 74 and 75 of the Governmental Standards Board (GASB) by the Town.*

**Article : 7      Maintenance and improvements at the Assonet Burying Ground**

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To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) from the Sale of Cemetery Lots Account to be used by the Cemetery Commission for maintenance and improvements at the Assonet Burying Ground, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Cemetery Commission  
Requires Majority Vote

Recommended by Finance Committee & Board of Selectmen

*Explanation of Article: 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: 8      Maintenance of Veterans graves**

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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 Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for the maintenance of veterans' graves, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Cemetery Commission  
Requires Majority Vote



Recommended by Finance Committee & Board of Selectmen

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

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**Article: 9** **Cable Fund Appropriation**

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To see if the Town will vote to appropriate in the general fund and transfer the sum of One Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$135,000.00) from a special revenue receipt reserved for appropriation account known as the PEG Access & Cable Related Fund, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44 Section 53F ¾, for the purpose of funding video service agreements and outfitting the Police Station Community Room with the necessary equipment to film and broadcast meetings, including any incidental and related costs, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

Requires Majority Vote

Recommended by Finance Committee & Board of Selectmen

*Explanation of Article: The PEG Access & Cable Related Fund receives funding from a cable licensing and franchise fee agreement. This article will transfer funding from this special revenue fund and make an appropriation in the general fund to pay for contracts for video services, outfitting the Police Station Community Room with the necessary equipment to record meetings, and facilitate large-scale virtual meetings to support outreach to residents.*

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**Article: 10** **Proposed By-law change 1.1 Posting of Warrants**

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To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws, Article 1, Town Meeting, Section 1.1, Posting of Warrants by deleting therefrom the strikethrough language and inserting therein the bold and italicized language as shown below, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Every Town Meeting shall be called by a Warrant directed to a constable, or other duly appointed person, by posting attested copies of said Warrant ~~in not less than six (6) public places in the town and~~ **at the town hall, police station, and at each post office within the Town** at least fourteen (14) days before the time of holding the Annual Meeting, and at least fourteen (14) days before the time of holding any Special Town Meeting.  
***Additionally, every warrant shall be published on the Town's official website.***

~~A. Availability of Warrants—A copy of the Warrant containing the articles shall be made available to all registered voters at least seven (7) days before the time of holding the business portion of the Annual Town Meeting, and at least seven (7) days before the time of holding a Special Town Meeting.~~

Submitted by Chief of Police

Requires Majority Vote

Recommended by Board of Selectmen. Finance Committee takes no position on this article

*Explanation of Article: to change the language to post the warrants for Annual and Special Town Meetings to Town's website, town hall, police station, and each post office in the Town.*

*This would reduce the physical places for posting from six (6) to five (5) locations with the addition of posting the articles on the town's website.*

**Article : 11                      Veterans Tax Exemption When Home in a Trust**

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To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Mass. General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22G, thereby allowing disabled veterans who place their homes into a trust to continue receiving property tax exemptions under clauses 22A through 22F of said Chapter 59, Section 5, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Assessors  
Requires Majority Vote

Recommended by Board of Selectmen. Finance Committee takes no position on this article

*Explanation of Article: Most property tax exemptions are lost when a home is placed into a trust of which the recipient is not a trustee. The law allows an exception to this rule for veterans only, only if the town votes to allow that exception. This exception does not apply to recipients of exemptions under Clause 22H.*

**Article : 12                      Petition: Transfer Station Sticker Fees**

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To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 3, Section 3.2.U of its General by-laws, relative to the Fee Schedule for the Transfer Station, but deleting all current language therein and inserting in place thereof the following:

Each household shall be entitled to two Transfer Station stickers annually at no charge. The Board of Health may establish reasonable fees for additional stickers and for the use of the Transfer Station. Such fee schedule may be implemented after a public hearing the date, time, place and subject of which must be published seven days in advance on the Town's website and not less than six public places in the town. Any amendments to the fee schedule adopted during such public hearing shall take effect no sooner than ten days after the publication on the Town's website and not less than six public places in the town.

Submitted by Petition  
Requires Majority Vote

Board of Selectmen does not recommend. Finance Committee takes no position on this article

*Explanation of Article: To provide Town residents will two Transfer Station Stickers at no charge.*

**Article: 13                      Petition: Town Beach Sticker Fees**

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To see the Town will vote to amend Article 3, Section 3.2 of its General By-laws, relative to the powers and duties of the Board of Selectmen, by adding the following Section 3.2.V, and/or take any action relative thereto:

**(V) Fee Schedule – Town Beach**

Each household shall be entitled to two Town Beach stickers annually at no charge. If stickers for the Town Beach are expanded to other parks and/or recreational properties, then "Town Beach" as used in the first sentence shall be interpreted to include those parks and recreational properties requiring stickers for access. The Board of Park Commissioners (or Board of



Selectmen in absence of a Board of Parks Commissioners) may establish reasonable fees for additional stickers and for sue of the Town Beach. This section shall not apply to those properties owned and managed by the Conservation Commission.

Submitted by Petition  
Requires Majority Vote

Board of Selectmen does not recommend. Finance Committee takes no position on this article

*Explanation of Article: To provide Town residents with two Town Beach stickers at no charge.*

**Article: 14                      Addition of Juneteenth Day to paid holidays**

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To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws, Article 10, Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan, Section 10.6, Work Policies, C. Paid Holidays, to add "Juneteenth Day" to the list of legal holidays recognized within the meaning of this General By-Law, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Town Administrator  
Requires Majority Vote

Recommended by Board of Selectmen. Finance Committee takes no position on this article

*Explanation of Article: To add Juneteenth as a recognized holiday in the Towns By-Laws.*

**Article : 15                      Continuing Police Cruiser Lease Purchase Program**

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To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a tax exempt lease purchase (TELP) financing agreement with All American Investment, LLC to acquire police cruisers that may be financed by the issuance of debt, for a term up to the useful life of the property, being 3 years, to be procured as determined by the Board of Selectmen, pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 21C, and furthermore the sum needed to satisfy the first year payment of this agreement will be separately identified, raised and appropriated in the capital budget section of the Omnibus Budget for FY23, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Chief of Police  
Requires 2/3 Vote

Recommended by Board of Selectmen. Finance Committee takes no position on this article

*Explanation of Article: This article is necessary for the continuation of the cruiser lease program established in 2004 by the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee.*

**Article : 16                      Approve Dump Truck Lease Purchase Agreement**

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To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a tax exempt lease purchase (TELP) financing agreement with All American Investment, LLC to acquire a new Dump Truck that may be financed by the issuance of debt, for a term up to the useful life of the property, being 4 years, to be procured as determined by the Board of Selectmen, pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 21C, and furthermore the sum needed to satisfy the first year payment of this agreement will be separately identified, raised and appropriated in the capital budget section of the Omnibus Budget for FY23, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Highway Surveyor  
Requires 2/3 Vote

Recommended by Board of Selectmen. Finance Committee takes no position on this article

*Explanation of Article: This article is necessary to purchase a new dump truck to replace the 1994 model currently being utilized.*

**Article : 17** **By-law Change - Parking Ticket Penalties**

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To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c. 90, § 20A ½ allowing for the appointment of a parking clerk by the Board of Selectmen to supervise and coordinate the processing of parking notices; and further, to amend the General By-laws, Article 13, Use of Streets, Sidewalks and Public Places, Section 13.9, Exemptions and Penalties, (5), Penalties, by striking out the language, "M.G.L. c. 90, § 20A" from the first sentence and inserting the language, "M.G.L. c. 90, § 20A 1/2" in place thereof; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Chief of Police  
Requires Majority Vote

Recommended by Finance Committee & Board of Selectmen

*Explanation of Article: Town Meeting is asked to accept the statute allowing for appointment of a parking clerk and amend the By-law to accurately identify the applicable section of the general laws relative to parking ticket penalties.*

**Article : 18** **Parking Violation Fines and Enforcement**

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To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws, Article 13, Use of Streets, Sidewalks and Public Places, as follows:

By striking in Section **13.2 Definitions** the definition of "Flag Man" , and inserting the following in place thereof:

**Flag Man.** See Traffic Controller.

And by inserting in Section **13.2 Definitions** the following additional definition in proper alphabetical order within Section 13.2:

**Traffic Controller.** A person who performs traffic detail duties at roadway construction zones or special events and who has received training in the direction of motor vehicles and pedestrian traffic upon ways, and who is equipped with such equipment as to adequately warn and direct such traffic.

And by inserting the following new Section 13.3(2) to read as follows:

**13.3(2) Multi-Space Parking Meter.** A device installed by the Town for the acceptance of required parking fees for more than one parking space. A multi-space meter may regulate multiple parking spaces on-street and off-street. Use of a multi-space meter may require a motorist to affix and display a receipt on the curbside window or on the dashboard of his or

her vehicle in a manner so that the legend printed on the receipt is clearly visible to a person outside of the vehicle or may require a motorist to enter a space number in conjunction with making a payment. Multi-space meters may accept one or more of the following options: coins, tokens, cash, credit cards, smart cards or other stored value cards. At all times, payment is required in advance at any single parking meter or multi-space meter.

- (a) At each area where a multi-space parking meter is installed, there shall be a posted sign indicating that the area is controlled by said device. Instructions for operating the meter shall be posted on or near the device or available on its electronic display.
- (b) No vehicle shall remain parked beyond the maximum period of time as indicated by posted sign or upon the multi-space parking meter receipt during those hours when a parking fee is required. The Board of Selectmen is hereby authorized to establish the fees, method of payment, and days and hours for which a parking fee is required.
- (c) The Board of Selectmen is hereby authorized to install and maintain multi-space parking meters or cause the same to be installed and maintained.

And by re-numbering the existing sections as follows: 13.3(2) to be renumbered as 13.3(3); and 13.3(3) to be renumbered as 13.3(4).

And by striking out Section 13.9, Exemptions and Penalties, (5), Penalties the language, "M.G.L. c. 90, § 20A" from the first sentence and inserting the language, "M.G.L. c. 90, § 20A½" in place thereof and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Chief of Police  
Requires Majority Vote

Recommended by Board of Selectmen. Finance Committee takes no position on this article

*Explanation of Article: Bylaw needs to be amended to authorize the use of a parking kiosk at the boat ramp and to accurately identify the applicable section of the general laws relative to parking ticket penalties.*

#### **Article : 19 Retired Freetown Police Officers to be appointed Special Police Officers**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation, substantially as set forth below, relating to the appointment of retired police officers as special police officers in the Town; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approve amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court, and provided further that the Board of Selectmen is hereby authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition; and/or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Chief of Police  
Requires Majority Vote

Recommended by Board of Selectmen. Finance Committee takes no position on this article

*Explanation of Article: This Article would request Special Legislation in order to allow retired Freetown Police Officers to be appointed Special Police Officers for the purpose of performing police details or other police duties arising from such police details.*

**Article: 20                      Name Change from Easthill Road to Birch Road**

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To see if the Town will vote to change the name of South Easthill Road to Birch Road, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Planning Board  
Requires Majority Vote

Recommended by Board of Selectmen. Finance Committee takes no position on this article

*Explanation of Article: The newly constructed Birch Road is a continuation of South Easthill Road, which is a short road with no houses on it. Since they are the same road, having two names has proven confusing. This article seeks to eliminate this confusion.*

**Article : 21      Board of Health to be Elected Independent of the Board of Selectmen**

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To see if the Town will vote in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 41, Sections 1 and 2 to create a separately elected three-member Board of Health, thereby separating the Board of Health from the Board of Selectmen; and further, to amend the General By-laws, Article 1, Town Meeting, Section 1.2 , Election of Officers - Referendum Questions, by deleting therefrom the words shown below in strikethrough and inserting therein the words shown in bold underline, as follows:

*A Moderator; One Selectman, who shall also serve as ~~a member of the Board of Health~~ and a member of the Personnel Board; **one Board of Health member**, one Assessor, a Highway Surveyor, two Library Trustees ...."*

and, further, to implement the vote taken hereunder, to place on the ballot at the 2023 Annual Town Election the following three Board of Health positions: (1) one for a one-year term; (2) one for a two-year term; and (3) one for a three-year term; and thereafter, all such positions shall be elected for three-year terms; finally, upon the election and qualification of the Board of Health as provided hereunder, the Board of Selectmen shall no longer have the authority of a board of health and all such authority, as well as any records, agreements, powers and obligations related thereto, shall transfer by operation of law to such newly elected Board of Health; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen  
Requires Majority Vote

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee takes no position on this article

*Explanation of Article: To create an independent, elected three-member Board of Health, thereby separating the responsibilities of the Board of Health from Board of Selectmen. If approved at this meeting, Board of Health offices of 1, 2 and 3 years would appear on the ballot at the 2023 Annual Town Election and would thereafter be subject to election for periods of three years.*

**Article: 22**      **Board of Health to be Appointed by the Board of Selectmen**

To see if the Town will vote in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 21, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint a three-member board of health, thereby separating the offices and responsibilities of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Health, and, for such purposes, to place on the ballot for the 2023 Annual Town Election the following question as set forth in said Section 21:

"Shall the Town have its Selectmen appoint a Board of Health?"

with the creation of the new appointed Board of Health to take effect following the election at which the question is approved and Select Board appointments are made; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen  
Requires Majority Vote

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee takes no position on this article

*Explanation of Article: To authorize the separation of the Board of Health from the Board of Selectmen, and, for such purposes, to present a ballot question to the voters at the 2023 Annual Town Election. If approved here and at the polls, the Board of Selectmen would appoint a three-member Board of Health following the 2023 Annual Town Election, and, by operation of law, would transfer the powers, duties and obligations of a board of health to the newly created appointed Board of Health.*

**Article: 23**      **Amend the Town of Freetown's Zoning Map**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Freetown Zoning Map in accordance with a list of changes as on file at the Town Clerk's Office at the Town Hall, 3 North Main Street, Assonet, MA; and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by The Conservation Commission  
Requires 2/3 Vote

Recommended by Board of Selectmen. Finance Committee takes no position on this article.

*Explanation of Article: This article would primarily rezone parcels owned by the Conservation Commission, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (Freetown State Forest), and municipal water departments from their current zoning to Open Space & Recreation, in addition to other minor amendments, all to reflect the current statuses of properties.*

**Article : 24**      **Funding to the Capital Stabilization Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000.00 for the purpose of supplementing the Capital Stabilization Fund, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen  
Requires Majority Vote

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Finance Committee Recommends \$200,000.00



*Explanation of Article: 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 : 25**

**Funding the Stabilization Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300,000.00 for the purpose of supplementing the Stabilization Fund, and/or take any action thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen  
Requires Majority Vote

Recommended by Board of Selectmen. Finance Committee Recommends \$300,000.00

*Explanation of Article: This appropriation would add funds to the Stabilization Fund to be used for any lawful purpose. The Stabilization Fund is a "rainy day fund" or reserve to support the Town during times of financial stress. Any proposed use of the fund would require a 2/3 vote of Town Meeting.*

**Article: 26**

**Amend Personnel By-Law 3.1 (C) Town Administrator**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General Bylaws, Article 3, Powers and Duties of Town Officers, Section 3.3, Town Administrator, subsection (C), Qualifications, by deleting therefrom the strikethrough language and inserting therein the bold underlined language as follows, and/or take any action thereto:

The Town Administrator shall be appointed on the basis of ~~his/her~~ **their** educational, executive and administrative qualifications and experience. ~~His/her~~ **Their** education shall ~~shall~~ **may** consist of at least a Master's Degree in Public Administration or a Master's Degree in Business Administration or a Master's Degree related to either field of study, granted by an accredited degree granting college or university, **or the equivalent, as determined by the Board of Selectmen,** and ~~his/her~~ **their** professional experience shall **may** include at least ~~three (3) to-five (5) years previous~~ **three (3) to-five (5) years previous** **municipal** experience ~~in at least one of the following: Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Town Administrator or Assistant Town Administrator;~~ **provided, however, that the qualifications shall be determined by the Board of Selectmen as the appointing authority in the best interest of the Town.**

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen  
Requires Majority Vote

Recommended by Board of Selectmen. Finance Committee takes no position

*Explanation of Article: To provide flexibility in the hiring of a Town Administrator to ensure a suitable candidate may be selected for this important position.*

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And you are hereby directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof at the following places: the Assonet Post Office, the East Freetown Post Office, Junior's Convenience Store in Assonet, the Freetown Town Hall, Freetown Communications Center, and Freetown Fire-Rescue Station #3. 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 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, Anno Domini, Two Thousand Twenty-Two.

**The Town of Freetown Board of Selectmen**



Trevor R. Matthews



Jared C. Zager



Carlos A. Lopes