

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Town of Royalston

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

June 11, 2022

Worcester, ss.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Royalston in the County of Worcester, GREETINGS:

IN THE NAME OF **THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs, to meet at the Royalston Town Hall, 13 On the Common, in said Royalston, on Saturday, June 11, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. in the morning, then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 1. To choose one or more persons to act for the Town in lawsuits, or act anything thereon.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommend
Finance Committee Recommendation: N/A

Sponsor: Select Board
Vote Required: Simple Majority

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds in the Treasury, any sums of money to meet the appropriations under this warrant, or act anything thereon.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommend
Finance Committee Recommendation: N/A

Sponsor: Select Board
Vote Required: Simple Majority

Article 3. To see if the Town will authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, and to issue or renew notes as may be given for a period of less than one year, in accordance with Section 17, Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws as amended, or act anything thereon.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommend
Finance Committee Recommendation: N/A

Sponsor: Select Board
Vote Required: Simple Majority

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to fix the FY2023 salaries and compensation of all elected officers of the Town as provided by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 108, or act anything thereon.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommend
Finance Committee Recommendation: N/A

Sponsor: Select Board
Vote Required: Simple Majority

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to accept and appropriate the sum of \$700,000 or such other amount as is made available, for engineering, plans and authorized roadwork according to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 90, and/or STRAP grant, the same to be spent with the approval of the Select Board and Mass DOT, or act anything thereon.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommend
Finance Committee Recommendation:

Sponsor: DPW
Vote Required: Simple Majority

Article 6.

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash to Stabilization, or act anything thereon.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommend
Finance Committee Recommendation:

Sponsor: Select Board
Vote Required: Simple Majority

Article 7.

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Stabilization the sum of \$35,778.12 to fund a deficit in the FY2022 Snow & Ice Account, or act anything thereon.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommend
Finance Committee Recommendation:

Sponsor: DPW
Vote Required: 2/3 Vote

Article 8.

To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 2 of Article XXI of the Town of Royalston General Bylaws to establish the annual spending limits as set forth below for the revolving funds listed in Section 1 of the Bylaw. with such updated expenditure limits to be applicable for each fiscal year until such time as Town Meeting votes, prior to July 1 in any year, to revise the same for the ensuing fiscal year; provided however, that at the request of the entity authorized to expend such funds, the Select Board, with the approval of the Finance Committee, may increase such limit for that fiscal year only, or act anything thereon.

Program or Purpose	Spending Limit
Board of Health	\$10,000
Plumbing Inspection Service	\$ 8,000
Wiring Inspection Service	\$ 8,000
Post Office Account	\$23,000

Select Board Recommendation: Recommend
Finance Committee Recommendation:

Sponsor: Select Board
Vote Required: Simple Majority

Article 9.

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Stabilization the sum of \$48,250.79 to pay the debt service on the following lease/purchase agreements authorized by the votes indicated, or act anything thereon.

1. Department of Public Works: loader (fifth payment of a five-year lease/purchase authorized by vote of the May 11, 2018, Annual Town Meeting, Article 9) \$33,364.56
 2. Fire Department: brush truck (third payment of a six-year lease/purchase authorized by the vote of the May 10, 2019, Annual Town Meeting, Article 22) \$14,886.23
- TOTAL** \$48,250.79

Select Board Recommendation: Recommend
Finance Committee Recommendation:

Sponsor: Capital Planning Committee
Vote Required: 2/3 Vote

Article 10.

To see if the Town will transfer \$10,604 from Stabilization to pay the Town's FY2023 share of the debt service for the Athol-Royalston Regional High School MSBA Loan for the Roof and Window Project (the second of 10 payments), or act anything thereon.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommend
Finance Committee Recommendation:

Sponsor: Select Board
Vote Required: 2/3 Vote

Article 11

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$44,995.20 to pay debt service (the fifth payment of a five-year lease/purchase) on the borrowing authorized by the vote of the May 5, 2017 Annual Town Meeting, Article 21, for a 10-wheel sander for the Department of Public Works, or act anything thereon.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommend
Finance Committee Recommendation:

Sponsor: Capital Planning Committee
Vote Required: Simple Majority

Article 12.

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$49,782.99 to pay debt service (the seventh payment of a 35-year loan) on the borrowing authorized by the vote of the May 11, 2012 Annual Town Meeting, Article 43, and amended by the vote of the December 28, 2012 Special Town Meeting, Article 2, for the Royalston Wastewater Treatment Plant, or act anything thereon.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommend
Finance Committee Recommendation:

Sponsor: Capital Planning Committee
Vote Required: Simple Majority

Article 13.

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$86,010 to operate the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Sewer System for FY2023, the amounts to be raised from user fees, or act anything thereon.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommend
Finance Committee Recommendation:

Sponsor: Select Board
Vote Required: Simple Majority

Article 14.

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Stabilization the sum of \$1,300 for FY2023 capital expenditures for the sewer system, including any incidental and related costs, or act anything thereon.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommend
Finance Committee Recommendation:

Sponsor: Capital Planning Committee
Vote Required: 2/3 Vote

Article 15.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 and transfer said amount to the Tax Title Revolving Account, or act anything thereon.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommend
Finance Committee Recommendation:

Sponsor: Tax Collector
Vote Required: Simple Majority

Article 16.

To see if the Town will vote to borrow the sum of \$310,000 for the purpose of funding the projects and purchases listed below, including all incidental and related costs; and to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, in accordance with M.G.L. c.44, §§7 or 8, or any other enabling authority, to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and provided further, however, that the borrowing authorized hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters of the Town of a Proposition 2-1/2, so called, debt exclusion question, or act anything thereon.

Whitney Hall painting and repairs	\$ 50,000
Purchase of new DPW dump/sander cab and chassis	\$200,000
Purchase of new DPW pickup truck	<u>\$ 60,000</u>
Total	\$310,000

Select Board Recommendation: Recommend
Finance Committee Recommendation:

Sponsor: Select Board
Vote Required: 2/3 Vote

Article 17.

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation Act, Fiscal Year 2023 estimated annual revenues in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation

Committee for committee administrative expenses, community preservation projects and other expenses in Fiscal Year 2023, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation, or act anything thereon.

Appropriations:

From FY2023 estimated revenues for Committee Administrative Expenses \$ 2,500

Reserves

From FY2023 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve \$ 5,000

From FY2023 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve \$ 5,000

From FY2023 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve \$ 5,000

From FY2023 estimated revenues for Budgeted Reserve \$32,500

Select Board Recommendation: Recommend

Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee

Finance Committee Recommendation:

Vote Required: Simple Majority

Article 18.

To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$20,000 from FY2022 Community Preservation Budgeted Reserve Fund for the restoration and preservation of the Phinehas S. Newton Library roof, including all incidental and related costs, or act anything thereon.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommend

Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee

Finance Committee Recommendation:

Vote Required: Simple Majority

Article 19.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$16,600 to purchase and install a furnace at the Town Garage and a furnace at the Phinehas S. Newton Library, including all incidental and related costs, or act anything thereon.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommend

Sponsor: Select Board

Finance Committee Recommendation:

Vote Required: Simple Majority

Article 20.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$7,000 for the evaluation, design and repair of the Town Hall foundation, window sills and floor, including all incidental and related costs, or act anything thereon.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommend

Sponsor: Select Board

Finance Committee Recommendation:

Vote Required: Simple Majority

Article 21.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$3,000 for one set of turnout gear for the Fire Department, or act anything thereon.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommend

Sponsor: Fire Department

Finance Committee Recommendation:

Vote Required: Simple Majority

Article 22.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$5,000 as the Town's 5% match for a \$100,000 Assistance to Firefighters Grant, or act anything thereon.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommend

Sponsor: Fire Department

Finance Committee Recommendation:

Vote Required: Simple Majority

Article 23.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$20,000 for repairs to the Fire Department Tanker, including all incidental and related costs, or act anything thereon.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommend

Sponsor: Fire Department

Finance Committee Recommendation:

Vote Required: Simple Majority

Article 24.

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for special legislation to change the Town Clerk from an elected to an appointed position, effective as of April 7, 2025; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill unless the Select Board approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court and to authorize the Select Board to approve amendments within the scope of the general objectives of the petition; or act anything thereon.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommend
Finance Committee Recommendation:

Sponsor: Select Board
Vote Required: Simple Majority

Article 25.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or to transfer from available funds a sum of money to fund the FY2023 budgets as follows, or act anything thereon.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommend
Finance Committee Recommendation:

Sponsor: Select Board
Vote Required: Simple Majority

		FY 2022				FY 2023
		Final	FY 2023	FY 2023	FY 2023	Final
		ATM	Dept	Select	Finance	ATM
ACCOUNT NAME			Request	Board	Comm	
	GENERAL GOVERNMENT					
1	Moderator Salary	100	100	100	100	
2	Select Board Chair Salary	3,769	3,769	3,769	3,769	
3	Select Board Vice Chair Salary	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	
4	Select Board Clerk Salary	3,016	3,016	3,016	3,016	
5	Select Board Secretary Salary	3,074	3,074	3,151	3,151	
6	Select Board Misc. Expense	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	
7	Select Board Grant Writing Expense	0	0	5,000	5,000	
8	Admin Asst Wages	21,800	21,800	22,345	22,345	
9	Admin Asst Expense	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	
10	Town Accountant Salary	18,000	19,000	18,450	18,450	
11	Certification Town Accountant	0				
12	Town Accountant Expense	2,304	6,644	6,644	6,644	
14	Board of Assessors Chair Salary	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	
15	Board of Assessors Member Salary	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	
16	Board of Assessors Member Salary	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	
17	Assessors Expense	39,535	40,700	40,700	40,700	
19	Treasurer Salary	17,340	17,774	17,774	17,774	
20	Treasurer Expense	3,500	3,800	3,800	3,800	
21	Harpers Payroll	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	
22	Software (Treasurer portion)	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	
23	Custodians of Tax Title Salary	50	50	50	50	
24	Tax Collector Salary	4,325	4,433	4,433	4,433	
24A	Asst Collector Salary	20,019	20,519	20,519	20,519	
25	Tax Collector Certification	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	
26	Tax Collector Expense	8,005	8,755	8,755	8,755	

27	Finance Dir Salary	5,100	5,228	5,227	5,227	
28	Finance Dir Expense	500	750	500	500	
29	Officer Bonding	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	
30	Information Technology Expense	9,813	9,413	9,413	9,413	
31	IT Director Salary	3,000	4,075	4,075	4,075	
32	Legal Expense	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	
33	Town Clerk Salary	17,000	17,425	17,425	17,425	
34	Town Clerk Expense	4,200	4,300	4,300	4,300	
35	Archiving	500	500	0	0	
36	Election Expense	7,784	6,826	6,826	6,826	
37	Energy Committee Expense	500	500	500	500	
38	Conservation Commission Expense	450	1,000	1,000	1,000	
39	Historic Commission Expense	300	300	300	300	
40	Z.B.A. Expense	300	600	600	600	
41	Planning Board Expense	500	1,000	1,000	1,000	
41A	Planning Board Clerk	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	
42	Open Space & Rec Comm Expense	200	200	200	200	
43	Event Committee Expense	500	500	500	500	
44	Agriculture Committee Expense	600	600	600	600	
45	J.N. Bartlett Treasurer Salary	50	50	50	50	
	PUBLIC SAFETY					
46	Police Dept. Wages	100,030	102,059	89,341	89,341	
	PD Bridge Academy		17,064	17,064	17,064	
47	Police Dept. Expense	26,871	28,719	28,719	28,719	
48	Fire Chief Salary	26,000	26,500	26,500	26,500	
49	Fire Dept. Wages	42,000	61,000	61,000	61,000	
50	Fire Dept. Expense	47,000	43,000	45,500	45,500	
51	Emerg Mgmt. Director Salary	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	
52	Emerg Mgmt. Assistant Salary	500	500	500	500	
53	Civilian Defense/Emerg Mgmt. Expense	6,500	6,895	5,200	5,200	
54	24 Hr Dispatch Expense	26,152	27,573	27,573	27,573	
55	Building Inspector Salary	14,790	15,160	15,160	15,160	
56	Building Inspector Clerk Salary	2,550	3,250	2,614	2,614	
57	Building Inspector Expense	4,000	4,500	4,500	4,500	
58	Building Insp Code Enforcement	2,600	3,600	3,600	3,600	
59	Animal Inspector Salary	836	836	836	836	
60	Animal Control Expense	6,061	7,389	7,389	7,389	
61	Tree Department Expense	200	350	350	350	
62	DPW-Highway Tree Maint Fund Expense	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	
	EDUCATION					
63	Athol- Royalston Reg Assessment	671,296	631,118	631,118	631,118	
63A	ARPA Support ARRS		90,000	90,000	90,000	
64	Monty Tech Assessment	84,161	57,408	57,408	57,408	
	PUBLIC WORKS					

65	Public Halls/Municipal Bldg Expense	93,150	94,710	94,710	94,710	
66	Public Halls/Municipal Custodian Wages	9,547	8,000	8,000	8,000	
67	DPW-Highway Salary	274,585	290,143	283,943	283,943	
67A	DPW - Highway unused sick time payout	3,436	6,528	6,528	6,528	
68	DPW - Highway Salary Overtime	15,000	17,000	10,000	10,000	
69	DPW-Highway General Expense	87,000	90,800	90,800	90,800	
70	DPW-Highway Summer Temp Wages		17,000	0	0	
71	DPW-Highway Maintenance Expense	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	
72	DPW - Sewer Maintenance	10,000	15,000	10,000	10,000	
73	Snow & Ice	200,500	204,500	200,500	200,500	
74	Streetlights Expense	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	
78	Select Board - Care of Town Clocks Salary	52	52	52	52	
79	Care of Cemeteries/Cem Expense	300	300	300	300	
80	Cemetery Comm Chair Salary	275	275	275	275	
81	Cemetery Comm Member Salary	250	250	250	250	
82	Cemetery Comm Member Salary	250	250	250	250	
83	Board of Health Chair Salary	1,739	1,783	1,783	1,783	
84	Board of Health Member Salary	1,403	1,561	1,561	1,561	
85	Board of Health Clerk Salary	1,523	1,438	1,438	1,438	
86	Board of Health Expense	74,530	77,595	77,595	77,595	
87	Board of Health Landfill Monitoring Exp.	4,095	5,000	5,000	5,000	
88	Board of Health Wages	21,899	22,550	22,550	22,550	
89	Board of Health Mgmt. Acct Salary	2,619	2,684	2,684	2,684	
	HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES					
90	Veterans' Services Expense	3,910	3,910	3,910	3,910	
91	Veterans' Benefits Expense	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	
92	Council on Aging Expense	800	926	926	926	
93	Elderly Transportation Expense	200	1,000	500	500	
94	Library Wages	47,610	49,388	49,388	49,388	
95	Library Expenses	28,660	29,288	29,288	29,288	
96	Memorial Day Expense	750	700	700	700	
	BENEFITS, INSURANCE & MISC.					
97	Short Term Interest Expense	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	
98	Worcester Regional Retirement	65,881	65,881	65,881	65,881	
99	Workmen's Compensation Expense	17,387	17,387	15,115	15,115	
100	Unemployment - Contributory Expense	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	
101	Health Insurance Expense	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	
102	Town Share Medicare Expense	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000	
103	Liability Insurance Expense	41,690	41,690	40,751	40,751	
104	Insurance - Police & Fire Liab Expense	16,656	16,656	16,132	16,132	
105	Reserve Account	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	
TOTAL		2,465,078	2,599,567	2,547,905	2,547,905	

Article 26

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,444 and transfer said amount to Stabilization, or act anything thereon.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommend
Finance Committee Recommendation:

Sponsor: Select Board
Vote Required: Simple Majority

Article 27.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$10,000 to make improvements at the Transfer Station, including but not limited to cleaning up the site to address environmental issues, and including all incidental and related costs, or act anything thereon.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommend
Finance Committee Recommendation:

Sponsor: Board of Health
Vote Required: Simple Majority

Article 28.

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Assessors to use a portion of funds in the Treasury to reduce the tax rate for this coming year, or act anything thereon.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommend
Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommend

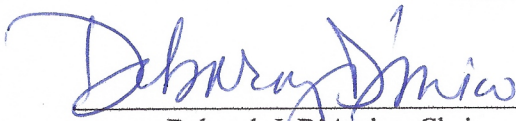
Sponsor: Board of Assessors
Vote Required: Simple Majority

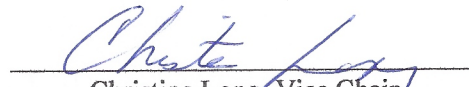
And you are directed to serve this Warrant, by posting up attested copies thereof at the Town Hall, Post Office, Whitney Hall, Country Store, and West Royalston Bulletin Board in said Town, seven days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

HEREOF FAIL NOT, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting, as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 2nd. day of June in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Two.

SELECT BOARD OF ROYALSTON


Deborah J. D'Amico, Chair


Christine Long, Vice Chair


Richard Martin, Clerk

A true copy, attest:


_____, Constable.

Worcester, ss.

PURSUANT TO THE WITHIN WARRANT, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Royalston by posting up attested copies of the same at the Town Hall, Post Office, Whitney Hall, General Store and West Royalston Bulletin Board, seven days before the date of the meeting, as within directed.



Constable of Royalston

06/02/22

Date