

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Annual Town Meeting Warrant
May 6, 2016

I, Melanie Mangum, as Town Clerk of Royalston, do hereby certify that the following are the actions taken at the Annual Town Meeting of May 6, 2016, and was adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

:true copy attest



:town seal

Melanie A. Mangum, Town Clerk

Moderator George Northrop called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

There were 64 registered voters at this town meeting. The meeting began with a presentation by Select Board chairman Christine Long – an overview of the town financial situation. A short statement was then made by Larry Siegel, chairman of the Finance Committee. A short presentation was then made by Marsha Charest of the Community Preservation Committee about what the Community Preservation Act is. Motion was then made to allow the Acting Superintendent of the Athol-Royalston Regional School District to speak, and to take Line Item 9 of the Budget Article (Article 39) out of order and approve an amount, seconded. \$538,817 was passed unanimously for Line Item 9. Motion made to allow the Business Manager of Montachusett Regional Vocational Tech School to speak and to take Line Item 61 of the Budget Article out of order and approve an amount, seconded. \$98,994 was approved unanimously for Line Item 61.

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

Moved to choose the Select Board to act for the Town in lawsuits, seconded. PASSED Unanimously.

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.

Moved the article as read, seconded. PASSED Unanimously.

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, 2016 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 General Laws as amended, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. PASSED Unanimously

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

Moved the article as read, seconded. PASSED Unanimously.

Article 5. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$31,970 to pay debt service on the borrowing authorized by the vote of the September 10, 1993 Town Meeting, Article 1, for the Royalston Community School, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. PASSED Unanimously.

Article 6. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$65,295.35 to pay debt service on the borrowing authorized by the vote of the May 10, 2013 Town Meeting, Article 23, for a pumper/engine for Fire Department Station 2, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. PASSED Unanimously.

Article 7. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$53,367.37 to pay debt service 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.

Moved the article as read, seconded. PASSED Unanimously.

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Health Agent Revolving Account to be expended for the administration and enforcement of Title V and other health regulations; that departmental receipts from persons making application for septic installation and other Board of Health permits be credited to said fund; that the Board of Health be authorized to spend monies in the Fund, and that the limit on the total amount spent from the account for the ensuing year shall be \$10,000, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. PASSED Unanimously

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Plumbing Inspector Revolving Account to be expended for the purpose of paying an inspector; that department receipts from fees charged to persons installing plumbing be credited to said account, that the Plumbing Inspector be authorized to spend monies in the account, and that the limit on the total amount spent from the account for the ensuing year shall be \$8,000; or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. PASSED Unanimously

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Wiring Inspector Revolving Account to be expended for the purpose of paying an inspector; that department receipts charged to persons who are installing wiring be credited to said account, that the wiring inspector be authorized to spend monies in the account, and that the limit on the total amount spent from the account for the ensuing year shall be \$8,000, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. PASSED Unanimously

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to authorize a Post Office Revolving account to be expended for the administration and operation of the Post Office; that payments from the United States Postal Service and departmental receipts from charges for postage, shipping, and sale of shipping supplies and any other receipts of the Post Office be credited to said fund; that the Post Office Manager be authorized to spend monies in the account for the purpose of the administration and operation of the Post Office, including the payment of salaries of part-time employees, and that the limit on the total amount spent from the account for FY2017 shall be \$18,500, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. PASSED Unanimously

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to establish a revolving account under MGL Chapter 60, Section 15B, for collection of tax titles, that fees, charges and costs incurred and collected upon the redemption of tax titles and sales of real property acquired through foreclosures of tax titles shall be credited to said fund, that the Tax Collector and Treasurer be authorized to expend monies in the account for costs associated with collection of tax titles, and further, to transfer to said account \$5,000 from the Post Office Revolving Account for the purposes specified herein, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. Discussion. Motion to move the question, seconded, Passed 49 in favor, 2 opposed. Motion to approve the article PASSED, 35 in favor, 15 opposed.

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Stabilization, the sum of \$8,600 to provide police patrols for the Tully and Birch Hill Dam areas, to be reimbursed by the Corps of Engineers, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. PASSED Unanimously.

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to pay the sum of \$500,000 for engineering, plans, and authorized roadwork up to the reimbursable amount according to the provisions of Chapter 90 Massachusetts General Laws and/or STRAP grant, and the same to be spent with the approval of the Select Board and Mass DOT, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. PASSED Unanimously

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Stabilization, the sum of \$20,000 to balance the Snow & Ice Account, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. PASSED Unanimously

Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of General Law Chapter 44, Section 53F ½ and establish a Sewer Enterprise Fund for the operation of the Town's Wastewater Treatment Plant and Sewer System, to be managed by the Sewer Commission, said Fund to be effective beginning Fiscal Year 2017, or act anything thereon.

NO MOTION, ARTICLE PASSED OVER

Article 17. To see if the Town will appropriate \$39,201 for the purpose of operating the Sewer Enterprise (\$15,500 for operator contract, \$22,401 for operating expenses and \$1,300 for

capital expenses), with \$37,901 raised from department receipts and \$1,300 raised and appropriated, or act anything thereon.

NO MOTION, ARTICLE IS PASSED OVER

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,300 for capital expenditures for the sewer system, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. PASSED Unanimously

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of \$37,901 to operate the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Sewer System, the amounts to be raised from user fees, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. PASSED Unanimously

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation Act FY 2017 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 2017, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation, or act anything thereon:

Appropriations:

From FY 2017 estimated revenues for Committee Administrative Expenses **\$ 1,600**

Reserves:

From FY 2017 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve **\$ 3,200**

From FY 2017 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve **\$ 3,200**

From FY 2017 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve **\$ 3,200**

From FY 2017 estimated revenues for Budgeted Reserve **\$20,800**

Moved the article as read, seconded. PASSED Unanimously.

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 1 of the January 8, 2016 Special Town Meeting authorizing the acquisition of a conservation restriction in Eagle Reserve, also known as the Solinas Zimmerman Property and as described more fully therein, by reducing the amount appropriated thereunder by \$20,000, and further, by transferring from the Community Preservation Fund, \$10,000 from the Open Space Reserve and \$10,000 from the FY2016 Budgeted Reserve, for the purposes set forth therein, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. Much discussion. Motion to move the question, seconded, passed. ARTICLE PASSED, 47 in favor 4 against.

Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Community Preservation Fund, \$2,500 from Historic Resources Reserve, \$10,000 from FY2016 Budgeted Reserve and \$2,500 from the Fund Balance for rehabilitation and preservation of the historic Town Hall, specifically for the purchase, design, and construction of an elevator including any costs incidental or related thereto, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. PASSED 50 in favor, 1 opposed.

Article 23. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,200 for the fourth and final annual payment of the four-year lease/purchase for a police cruiser, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. PASSED Unanimously

Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to conduct an audit of the Town's finances, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. PASSED Unanimously.

Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,400 for purpose of retaining the services of a grant writing consultant, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. PASSED Unanimously.

Article 26. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Stabilization the sum of \$7,700 for the purchase and implementation of Cash Reconciliation Software, including any costs incidental or related thereto, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. Much discussion. PASSED with 47 in favor, 4 opposed.

Article 27. To see if the Town will transfer from Stabilization a sum not to exceed \$70,000 for the purchase and equipping of a six-wheel dump truck to replace a 1994 International Harvester dump truck for the DPW, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. Discussion. Article PASSED 47 in favor, 4 opposed.

Article 28. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Stabilization the sum of \$35,000 to replace the dump body on a 2003 7600 Series IH dump truck for the DPW, including any costs incidental or related thereto, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. PASSED Unanimously

Article 29. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Post Office Revolving Account the sum of \$5,000 to repair certain windows at Town Hall, including any costs incidental or related thereto, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. PASSED with 4 opposed.

Article 30. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Post Office Revolving Account the sum of \$5,000 to design and construct a roof over the ramp at Town Hall, including any costs incidental or related thereto, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. PASSED with 9 opposed.

Article 31. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Stabilization the sum of \$10,000 to scrape and paint Whitney Hall, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. PASSED Unanimously

Article 32. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,200 for the purchase of mold remediation equipment for use at Whitney Hall, including any costs incidental or related thereto, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. PASSED with one opposed.

Article 33. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to purchase two sets of structural firefighting gear, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. PASSED Unanimously.

Article 34. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to refurbish two pumps at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, including any costs incidental or related thereto, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. Motion to amend the article to read raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 seconded. Motion to amend the article passed unanimously. Article as amended PASSED Unanimously.

Article 35. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000 for the triennial revaluation, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. PASSED with one opposed.

Article 36. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the Tree Maintenance Fund, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. PASSED with one opposed.

Article 37. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 for the preservation of Town hearse house(s), including any costs incidental or related thereto, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. PASSED with 2 opposed

Article 38. To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 4 of the June 24, 2011 Special Town Meeting to increase the size of the Agricultural Commission from five to seven members, a minimum of three of whom shall derive their prime source of income from farming or agricultural-based enterprises in Royalston and another four of whom are interested in farming. Of the new members, one will be appointed for a term of three years, and one for an initial term of two years and thereafter for three-year terms, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. PASSED with 2 opposed.

Article 39. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,975,795, and to take from the mortgage reduction account the sum of \$25,000, for a total of \$2,000,795 to fund the budgets for the following accounts, or act anything thereon.

Motion to approve the article with the amounts in line items listed below, seconded.

PASSED Unanimously.

No.	Department	FY 2016 Actual	Dept. Req FY2017	Select Bd FY2017	Fin Com FY017	Final FY017
1	24 Hr. Dispatch	17,060	17,060	17,060	17,060	17,060
2	Admin Asst	15,636	15,675	15,675	15,675	15,675
3	Admin Asst Expense	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
4	Agriculture Commission	250	250	250	250	250
5	Animal Control Budget	4,549	4,645	4,645	4,645	4,645
6	Animal Inspector	773	796	796	796	796
7	Assessor's Clerk's Salary	8,563	8,553	8,553	8,553	8,553
8	Assessor's Expense	5,447	6,620	6,620	6,620	6,620
9	Athol - Royalston Reg Assess	479,131	538,817	538,817	538,817	538,817
10	Board of Assessors Chair	1,782	1,782	1,782	2,500	2,500
11	Board of Assessors Member	1,545	1,545	1,545	1,545	1,545
12	Board of Assessors Member	1,545	1,545	1,545	1,545	1,545
13	Board of Health Chair	1,545	1,583	1,583	1,583	1,583
14	Board of Health Clerk	1,357	1,387	1,387	1,387	1,387
15	Board of Health Expenses	53,000	52,000	52,000	52,000	52,000
16	Board of Health Member	1,245	1,276	1,276	1,276	1,276
17	Board of Health Mgmt Acct	2,385	2,444	2,444	2,444	2,444
18	Board of Health Wages	14,500	15,500	15,500	15,500	15,500
19	BOH Monitoring	3,885	-	-	-	0
20	Building Inspector Expense	5,461	5,598	5,598	5,598	5,598
21	Building Inspector Salary	12,300	12,608	12,608	12,608	12,608
22	Care of Town Clocks	52	52	52	52	52
23	Cemetery Comm Chair	250	250	250	300	250
24	Cemetery Comm Member	200	200	200	200	200

25	Cemetery Comm Member	200	200	200	200	200
26	Cemetery Expense	250	250	250	250	250
27	Clearance of Tax Title	2,000	-	-	-	0
28	Conservation Commission	450	450	450	450	450
29	Council on Aging	800	800	800	800	800
30	County Retirement	46,578	50,567	50,567	50,567	50,567
31	Custodians of Tax Title	50	50	50	50	50
32	DPW-HWY Contractor Wage	-	-	-	-	0
33	DPW-Highway General	72,518	74,330	74,330	74,330	74,330
34	DPW- Highway Maintenance	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000
35	DPW- Highway Salary	246,000	256,549	256,549	250,349	250,349
36	DPW- Snow & Ice	170,000	192,000	180,000	170,000	185,000
37	Elderly Transportation	200	200	200	200	200
38	Election Expense	8,260	10,400	10,400	6,684	6,684
39	Emergency Management	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500
40	Energy Committee	500	500	500	500	500
41	Event Committee	-	1,000	500	500	500
42	Fire Chief Stipend	3,600	4,000	4,000	3,600	4,000
43	Fire Department Wages	32,000	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000
44	Fire Dept Expenses	47,756	47,756	47,756	47,756	47,756
45	Harper's Payroll	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
46	Historic Commission	300	300	300	300	300
47	Information Technology	3,600	5,256	5,256	5,256	5,256
48	Information Technology Dir.	1,000	1,025	1,025	1,025	1,025
49	Insurance - Norworco	1,974	-	-	-	0
50	Insurance General	36,300	39,200	39,200	39,200	39,200
51	Insurance Liability-F/P	13,000	13,080	13,080	13,080	13,080
52	Insurance- Workers Comp	14,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
53	Insurance-Health	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
54	Interest Expense	9,200	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000

55	J.N. Bartlett Treasurer	50	50	50	50	50
56	Legal Expense	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
57	Library Expenses	24,191	25,426	25,426	25,426	25,426
58	Library Wages	31,342	32,953	32,953	32,953	32,953
59	Memorial Day	650	650	650	650	650
60	Moderator's Salary	100	100	100	100	100
61	Mont Tech Assessment	114,159	98,994	98,994	98,994	98,994
62	Municipal Buildings	71,491	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
63	Officer Bonding	800	800	800	800	800
64	Open Space Committee	200	200	200	200	200
65	Planning Board	500	500	500	500	500
66	Police Dept Expense	21,976	24,149	24,149	24,149	24,149
67	Police Dept Wages	71,050	72,097	72,097	72,097	72,097
68	Registrars	150	150	150	150	150
69	Reserve Account	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	28,421
70	Royalston Post Office	6,000	-	-	-	0
72	Selectboard Chair	2,735	2,803	2,803	3,500	3,500
73	Selectboard Clerk	2,377	2,436	2,436	2,800	2,800
74	Selectboard Member	2,377	2,436	2,436	2,436	2,436
75	Selectboard Misc.	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
76	Selectboard Secretary	2,730	2,798	2,798	2,798	2,798
77	Sewer Comm Chair	300	300	300	300	300
78	Sewer Comm Member	250	250	250	250	250
79	Sewer Comm Member	250	250	250	250	250
80	Street Lights	3,000	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
81	Tax Collector's Expense	5,375	6,150	6,150	6,150	6,150
82	Tax Collector's Salary	13,184	13,489	13,489	13,489	13,489
83	Town Accountant Expense	2,600	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100
84	Town Accountant Salary	12,192	12,497	12,497	12,497	12,497
85	Town Clerk's Expense	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700

86	Town Clerk's Salary	11,050	11,326	11,326	11,326	11,326
87	Town Reports & Street List	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300
88	Town Share Medicare	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
89	Treasurer's Expense	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
90	Treasurer's Salary	12,184	12,489	12,489	12,489	12,497
91	Tree Department	100	200	200	200	200
92	Unemployment - Contributory	5,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
93	Veterans' Benefits	5,000	9,500	9,500	9,500	9,500
94	Veterans' Services	3,700	3,711	3,711	3,711	3,711
95	Z.B.A. Expense	300	300	300	300	300
						\$2,000,795
TOTAL		1,914,660	2,008,003	1,995,503	1,977,016	

Article 40. To see if the Town will vote to revoke Article 24 of the Annual Town Meeting held May 9, 2008 and revoke acceptance of Sections 3 to 7, inclusive, of Chapter 44B of the General Laws, otherwise known as the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act, and revoke Article 25 of the Annual Town Meeting reconvened on June 27, 2008, and rescind approval of Community Preservation Committee Bylaw, and to notify the Town Clerk to place a question on Town Election ballot to rescind approval of Question 4 (Community Preservation Act approval) on ballot of Town Election dated November 4, 2008, or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION TO MOVE AS READ – NO SECOND, NO ACTION.

Article 41. 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.

MOTION TO MOVE AS READ, SECONDED, PASSED WITH ONE OPPOSED

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:22 P.M., SECONDED, PASSED