

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
ACTIONS TAKEN AT THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
JUNE 27, 2020

I, Barbara Richardson, as Town Clerk of Royalston, do hereby certify that the following are the actions taken at the Annual Town Meeting of June 27, 2020.

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order by Moderator George Northrop at 10:09 AM with 85 of 964 registered voters in attendance. After briefing the audience on the general housekeeping rules such as encouraging the wearing of masks, using marked entrances and exits and sanitizing of microphone due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and acknowledging that perhaps the first al fresco/outdoor town meeting in recent memory was about to commence.

George then took time to acknowledge the recent passing of his predecessor Wayne Newton who served many years as moderator, fire chief and as a member of many town boards. We are all grateful for his service to the Town of Royalston.

Deb D'Amico chair of the Select Board addressed the audience explaining that the warrant is a very conservative version due to the COVID shut down. Not being able to predict the State aide we will receive; the recommendations are almost all level funded. The Select Board anticipates that the State will finalize a budget sometime this summer and then a Special Town Meeting will be held to adjust the numbers once we have them.



Town Seal

A True Copy Attest:

Barbara Richardson, Town Clerk

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

Moved to choose K.P. Law to act for the Town in lawsuits, seconded.

Motion carries with 2 opposed.

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.

Move article as read, seconded.

Motion carries 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, 2020 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 MGL as amended.

Moved article as read, seconded.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to fix the FY2021 salaries and compensation of all elected officers of the Town as provided by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 108.

Moved article as read, seconded. Motion carries unanimously.

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E-1/2 as most recently amended, to establish a new FY2021 spending limit for the Post Office Revolving Fund, as set forth below and listed in Section 1 of the General Bylaw entitled "Revolving Funds" approved under Article 5 of the May 10, 2019 Annual Town Meeting, with such new limit to be applicable from fiscal year to fiscal year until revised by Town Meeting prior to July 1 for the ensuing fiscal year.

<u>Program or Purpose</u>	<u>Spending Limit</u>
Post Office Account	\$23,000.00

Moved article as read, seconded. Motion carries unanimously.

Article 6. 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 MGL, Chapter 90, and/or STRAP grant, the same to be spent with the approval of the Select Board and Mass DOT.

Moved article as read, seconded. Motion carries unanimously.

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$52,171 to balance the FY2020 Snow and Ice Account.

Moved to transfer from Stabilization the sum of \$52,171 to balance the Snow and Ice Account, seconded.

Motion carries with 2 opposed.

Article 8. To see if the Town will appropriate the amount of \$70, 275 to operate the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Sewer System for FY2021, the amounts to be raised from user fees.

Moved article as read, seconded. Motion carries with 2 opposed.

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Capital Stabilization Fund the sum of \$1,300 for FY2021 capitol expenditures for the Sewer System, including any incidental and related costs.

Moved article as read, seconded. Motion carries with 6 opposed.

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the following amounts, totaling \$174,692, to operate the Broadband Enterprise for Fy2021, the amounts to be raised from user fees.

Administrative and Misc. Operations	\$28,000
Network Operations and ISP	\$113,641

Depreciation	\$22,000
Debt Service	\$0
<u>Extra/Unforeseen</u>	<u>\$11,051</u>
Total	\$174,692

Moved article as read, seconded. Motion carries with 6 opposed.

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$14,111 from Free Cash to the Capital Stabilization Fund.

Moved article as read, seconded. Motion carries unanimously

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation Act, FY2021 estimated annual revenues in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for committee administrative expenses, community preservation projects and any other expenses in FY2021, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation.

Appropriations:

From FY2021 estimated revenues for Committee Admin. Expenses	\$1,800
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Reserves:

From FY2021 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve	\$3,600
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From FY2021 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve	\$3,600
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From FY2021 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve	\$3,600
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From FY2021 estimated revenues for Budgeted Reserve	\$23,400
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Moved article as read, seconded Motion carries with 1 opposed

Article 13. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$65,295.35(the seventh payment on a seven year loan) to pay dept. service on the borrowing authorized by the vote of the May 10, 2013 Town Meeting, Article 23, for a pumper/engine for Fire Dept. Station 2.

Moved article as read, seconded. Motion carries unanimously.

Article 14. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$47,785.60 to pay dept. service (fourth payment on a five year loan) on the borrowing authorized by the vote of the May 5, 2017 Annual Town Meeting, Article 21 for a ten wheel sander for the DPW.

Moved article as read, seconded. Motion carries unanimously.

Article 15. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$ \$50,977.79 to pay dept. service (fifth payment on 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.

Moved article as read, seconded.

Motion carries with 2 opposed.

- Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Capital Stabilization Fund \$20,875.12 to pay dept service (fourth payment of a five year lease/purchase) authorized by the vote of the May 5, 2017 Annual Town Meeting, Article 21, for a one-ton dump truck for the DPW.

Moved article as read, seconded.

Motion carries with 1 opposed.

- Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Capital Stabilization Fund the sum of \$33,363.32 to pay dept service (third payment of a five year lease/purchase) authorized by the vote of the May 11, 2018 Annual Town Meeting, Article 9, for a loader for the DPW.

Moved article as read, seconded.

Motion carries unanimously

- Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Capital Stabilization Fund the sum \$8,327.78 to pay debt service (third payment of a four year lease/purchase) authorized by the vote of the May 11, 2018 Town Meeting, Article 14, for a utility vehicle for the Police Dept.

Moved article as read, seconded

Motion carries unanimously

- Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Capital Stabilization Fund the sum of \$3,332 to pay the Town's FY2021 share of the debt service for the Athol-Royalston Regional High School accelerated repair program (the third of ten payments).

Moved article as read, seconded

Motion carries unanimously

- Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Capital Stabilization Fund the sum of \$14,886.23 to pay debt service (second payment of a six-year lease/purchase) authorized by the vote for the May 10, 2019 Town Meeting, Article 22, for a brush Truck for the Fire Dept.

Moved article as read, seconded.

Motion carries unanimously

- Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$2,351,258 to fund the FY2021 budgets as follows.

Moved to raise and appropriate \$2,335,532

Transfer from Free Cash \$5,962

Transfer from Stabilization \$9,764

Moved article as read, seconded.

Motion carries with 4 opposed

		Final FY20	FY 2021	FY 2021	FY2021	Final
	ACCOUNT NAME	ATM	Dept Request	Selectboard	FinCom	ATM
	GENERAL GOVERNMENT					
1	Moderators Salary	100	100	100	100	
2	Select Board Chair Salary	3,769	3,863	3,769	3,769	
3	Select Board Vice Chair Salary	3,016	3,094	3,016	3,016	
4	Select Board Clerk Salary	3,000	3,075	3,000	3,000	
5	Select Board Secretary Salary	3,014	3,135	3,014	3,014	
6	Select Board Misc. Expense	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	
7	Select Board Grant Writing Expense	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	
8	Admin Asst Wages	22,500	24,440	22,500	22,500	
9	Admin Asst Expense	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	
10	Town Accountant Salary	19,000	19,500	19,000	19,000	
11	Certification Town Accountant	500	500	500	500	
12	Town Accountant Expense	3,290	3,290	3,290	3,290	
13	Audit Expense	-		-	-	
14	Board of Assessors Chair Salary	2,680	1,000	1,000	1,000	
15	Board of Assessors Member Salary	1,648	1,000	1,000	1,000	
16	Board of Assessors Member Salary	1,648	1,000	1,000	1,000	
17	Assessors Expense	7,180	36,720	36,720	36,720	

18	Assessors Clerks / Outsource FY21	9,960		-	-	
19	Treasurers Salary	17,000	17,425	17,000	17,000	
20	Treasurers Expense	3,500	3,700	3,500	3,500	
21	Harpers Payroll	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	
22	Vadar Software (Treasurer portion)	1,840	1,840	1,840	1,840	
23	Custodians of Tax Title Salary	50	50	50	50	
24	Tax Collector Salary	19,626	20,117	19,626	19,626	
24A	Asst Collector Wages		4,240	4,240	4,240	
25	Tax Collector Certification	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	
26	Tax Collectors Expense	8,005	8,113	8,005	8,005	
27	Finance Dir Salary	5,000	5,125	5,000	5,000	
28	Finance Dir Expense	-	0	0	-	
29	Officer Bonding	1,860	1,500	1,500	1,500	
30	Information Technology Expense	13,265	14,555	10,313	10,313	
31	IT Director Salary	2,500	3,000	2,500	2,500	
32	Le11alExpense	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	
33	Town Clerks Salary	13,396	13,731	13,396	13,396	
34	Town Clerks Expense	4,200	4,275	4,200	4,200	
35	Archiving	500	500	500	500	
36	Election Expense	9,970	12,620	9,970	9,970	
37	Energy Committee Expense	500	500	500	500	
38	Conservation Commission Expense	450	450	450	450	
39	Historic Commission	300	300	300	300	
40	Z.B.A. Expense	300	300	300	300	
41	Planning Board Expense	500	500	500	500	
41A	Planning Board Clerk		1,500			
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	92,138	103,509	92,138	92,138	
47	Police Dept. Expense	25,355	25,978	25,355	25,355	
48	Fire Chief Salary	4,100	4,203	4,100	4,100	
49	Fire Dept. Wages	36,538	36,538	36,538	36,538	
50	Fire Dept. Expense	50,200	51,200	50,200	50,200	
51	Emerg Mgmt. Director Salary	2,000	3,000	2,000	2,000	
52	Asst Emerg Manager	500	500	500	500	
53	Civilian Defense/Emerg Mgmt. Expense	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	
54	24 Hr Dispatch Expense	24,271	25,126	24,271	24,271	
55	Building Inspector Salary	14,500	14,863	14,500	14,500	
56	Bldg. Inspector Clerk (prev. in Exp line)	2,500	2,575	2,500	2,500	
57	Building Inspector Expense	4,000	4,100	4,000	4,000	
58	Bldg Insp Code Enforcement	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	
59	Animal Inspector Salary	836	840	836	836	
60	Animal Control Expense	4,613	6,128	6,128	6,128	
61	Tree Department Expense	200	200	200	200	
62	DPW-Highway Tree Maint Fund Exp	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	
	EDUCATION					
63	Athol- Royalston Reg Assessment	608,974	652,134	640,730	640,730	

64	Monty Tech Assessment	90,311	86,347	86,347	86,347	
	PUBLIC WORKS					
65	Public Halls/Municipal Bldg Expense	81,695	70,247	70,247	70,247	
66	Public Halls/Munic Custodian Wages	7,106	9,360	9,360	9,360	
67	DPW-Highway Salary	262,199	273,722	262,199	262,199	
68	DPW - Highway Salary Overtime	15,000	17,000	15,000	15,000	
69	DPW-Highway General Expense	84,615	84,615	84,615	84,615	
70	DPW-Highway Summer Temp Wages	17,000	18,368	0	17,000	
71	DPW-Highway Maintenance Expense	36,000	40,000	40,000	36,000	
71A	DPW - Sewer Maintenance			10,000		
72	Snow & Ice	200,500	210,000	200,500	200,500	
73	Street Lights Expense	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	
74	Sewer Comm Chair Salary	308	0	0	-	
75	Sewer Comm Member Salary	256	0	0	-	
76	Sewer Comm Member Salary	256	0	0	-	
77	Select Board - Care of Town Clocks Sal	52	52	52	52	
78	Care of Cemeteries/Cem Expense	300	300	300	300	
79	Cemetery Comm Chair Salary	275	275	275	275	
80	Cemetery Comm Member Salary	250	250	250	250	
81	Cemetery Comm Member Salary	250	250	250	250	
82	Board of Health Chair Salary	1,705	1,747	1,705	1,705	
83	Board of Health Member Salary	1,375	1,410	1,375	1,375	
84	Board of Health Clerk Salary	1,493	1,530	1,493	1,493	
85	Board of Health Expense	54,050	83,180	74,230	74,230	
86	Board of Health Landfill Monitoring Exp.	4,095	0	0	-	
87	Board of Health Wages	21,470	22,007	21,470	21,470	
88	Board of Health Mgmt. Acct Salary	2,568	2,632	2,568	2,568	
	HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES					
89	Veterans Services Expense	4,000	3,843	3,843	3,843	
90	Veterans Benefits Expense	9,500	9,000	9,000	9,000	
91	Council on Aging Expense	800	800	800	800	
92	Elderly Transportation Expense	200	200	200	200	
93	Library Wages	45,048	46,890	45,048	45,048	
94	Library Expenses	27,801	29,017	27,801	27,801	
95	Memorial Day Expense	650	650	650	650	
	BENEFITS, INSURANCE & MISC.					
96	Short Term Interest Expense	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	
97	Worcester Regional Retirement	54,000	56,500	63,203	63,203	
98	Workmen's Compensation Expense	14,500	15,000	18,000	18,000	
99	Unemployment - Contributory Expense	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	
100	Health Insurance Expense	45,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	
101	Town Share Medicare Expense	11,500	13,000	13,000	13,000	
102	Liability Insurance Expense	47,000	46,000	41,690	46,000	
103	Insurance - Police & Fire Liab Expense	18,000	17,600	17,042	17,042	
104	Reserve Account	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	
	TOTAL	2,289,069	2,430,892	2,351,257	2,358,567	

Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$75,000.00 appropriated under Article 31 of the 2013 Annual Town Meeting, for a generator at RCS, to a new account, the Municipal Building Fund, to be used for the purpose of funding capital repairs or improvements for Municipal Buildings.

Moved article as read, seconded

Motion carries with 9 opposed

Article 23. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$7,000 from the FY20 Community Preservation Fund Open Space Reserve and \$18,000 from the FY20 Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Reserve, for a total of \$25,000.00, for the purpose of designing and constructing a Gazebo in South Village Park for recreation use, including all incidental and related costs.

Moved article as read, seconded

Motion carries with 7 opposed

Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$45,000 from the FY21 Community Preservation Fund Reserve, for the purpose of replacing asbestos shingles on Raymond School, located at 3 Raymond Place, Royalston, with new shingles that will be historically similar, as approved by the Historic District Commission, including all incidental and related costs.

Moved article as read, seconded.

Motion carries with 3 opposed

Article 25. ***Moved to table this article, seconded. Voted to table the article with 1 opposed.***

Article 26. ***Moved to table this article, seconded. Voted to table the article unanimously***

Article 27. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$1,900 to fund a portion of cost for the cleaning and structural inspection of the Town water tank located at Pleasant Street, including all incidental and related costs.

Moved article as read, seconded.

Motion carries with 1 opposed.

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 the coming year.

Moved article as read, seconded

Motion carries with 15 opposed.

A motion was made at 11:47 am to adjourn, seconded.

Unanimously voted to adjourn.