

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

FRANKLIN SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Ashfield in County of Franklin,
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 TOWN HALL in said Ashfield on SATURDAY the **SECOND** day of **MAY 2015**, at **TEN O'CLOCK** in the morning, then and there to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1: To choose a MODERATOR and a TREE WARDEN, both for one year terms. A SELECT BOARD MEMBER, A BOARD OF ASSESSORS MEMBER, A FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER, A SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER, A BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBER, A CONSTABLE, A PARK COMMISSIONER, A SEWER COMMISSIONER, all for three year terms: A PLANNING BOARD MEMBER, A LIBRARY TRUSTEE, for five year terms, A BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBER for an unexpired term of one (1) year. A PLANNING BOARD MEMBER for an unexpired term of three (3) years.

To vote on the following questions:

Ballot Question #1

Shall the Town of Ashfield be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the town's portion for repair work to the Mohawk Trail Regional Middle & High School?

Ballot Question #2

Shall the Town of Ashfield be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the town's portion to purchase a school bus to be used district wide?

Ballot Question #3

Shall the Town of Ashfield be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the town's portion for repair work to Sanderson Academy?

Polls to be closed at 6:00 PM.

ARTICLE 2: To act on the reports of the Town Officers.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to set the salary compensation for all elected officials of the town (Select Board, Board of Assessors, Board of Health, Moderator, Tree Warden and Constable) as provided by MGL Chapter 41, Section 108, to be made effective as of **July 1, 2015**, as contained in the budget, or act relative thereto.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the Fiscal Year beginning **July 1, 2015**, in accordance with the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year, in accordance with the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17, or act relative thereto.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$75,000 for the purpose of purchasing a **highway sweeper and mower**, or act relative thereto.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the following sums of money to pay for **SCHOOL COMMITTEE STIPENDS, VOCATIONAL SCHOOL EXPENSES AND EDUCATIONAL CAPITAL EXPENSES**, or act relative thereto:

School Committee 2 @ 500	1,000
Capital	66,274
Vocational	519,000

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds **\$2,028,973** to pay for **REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES** or act relative thereto.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to allow the District to borrow, a sum of money, not to exceed **\$250,700** to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee for repair work to the **Mohawk Trail Regional Middle & High School** located at 26 Ashfield Road in Buckland, Massachusetts, to include: boiler, doors, locker room, security, ventilation, and window upgrades totaling \$250,700, or act relative thereto.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to allow the District to borrow, a sum of money, not to exceed **\$90,000** to be expended under the direction of the School Committee to purchase a **school bus** to be used district wide totaling \$90,000, or act relative thereto.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to allow the District to borrow, a sum of money not to exceed \$100,000, to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee for repair work to the **Sanderson Academy** located at 808 Cape Street in Ashfield, Massachusetts, to include (detailed listing attached) boiler replacement and heat valve replacement totaling \$100,000, or act relative thereto.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to **accept the amended Mohawk Trail Regional Agreement** which provides for the addition of the Town of Rowe as a 7-12 member of the District effective July 1, 2016. *Copies of the twenty-five page Mohawk Trail Regional School District Regional District Agreement are available at Town Hall.*

ARTICLE 11A: To see if the Town will vote to **amend the MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT – REGIONAL DISTRICT AGREEMENT** by striking the following language contained in Section III(B):

Subject to the provisions of this section, it is intended that all residents of the member towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Colrain, Heath, Plainfield, and Shelburne (the “K-12 Member Towns”) in grades kindergarten to six, inclusive, will receive their education in facilities located in the District: Ashfield and Plainfield residents at Sanderson Academy; Colrain residents at the Colrain Central School; Buckland and Shelburne residents at the Buckland-Shelburne Regional School and Heath residents at the Heath Elementary School.

and replacing said language with the following:

Subject to the provisions of this section, it is intended that elementary students residing in the members towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Colrain, Heath, Plainfield and Shelburne (the “K-12 Member Towns”) will receive their education in facilities located in the District and will be assigned as follows: Ashfield and Plainfield residents to Sanderson Academy; Colrain residents to Colrain Central School; Buckland and Shelburne residents to Buckland Shelburne Elementary School; and Heath residents to Heath Elementary School. Notwithstanding the above, students may be educated in a District school other than as assigned above upon (i) a majority vote of the School Committee, and (ii) an affirmative vote by both (a) the member town or towns whose students are so assigned, and (b) the member town or towns served by the District school to which such students will be assigned, acceptance by each town to be a majority vote at an annual or special town meeting.

However, it is also the intent of this Agreement that the closure of a District elementary school building and the reassignment of all students being educated in that building may not be accomplished under this section. Rather such action requires an amendment to this Agreement, the process for which is contained in Section XIV. *Copies of the twenty-five page Mohawk Trail Regional School District Regional District Agreement are available at Town Hall.*

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the following sums of money to pay for **AMBULANCE SERVICE** or act relative thereto:

Highland Assessment	42,472
Radio Assessment	1,667

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash \$3,000 to pay for the **RESERVE ACCOUNT**, or act relative thereto.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following bylaw for the Town of Ashfield pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40, section 21 (13): The Collector shall pay all fees received by him/her by virtue of his/her office into the town treasury; and, all other officers who receive fees by virtue of their office shall report the amount thereof from time to time to the Select Board who shall publish them in the annual report.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the following sums of money to pay for **GENERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENSES** or act relative thereto:

Appeals Board	780
Elected Assessor Chair	1,500
Elected Assessor Salaries (2) @ 1,250	2,500
Assessors' Clerk	16,000
Assessor Expenses	33,379
Auditor	6,500
Energy Manager	3,506
Conservation Commission	1,380
Bonds	1,200
Insurance Buildings/Liability	41,815
Town Hall Steward	600
Town Hall Building Committee	5,000
Information Technology Expenses	12,170
Planning Board	1,000
Elections	4,000
Registrars of Voters	400
Town Administrator	60,000
Street Lists	800
Special Project Staffing	1,000
Municipal Town Clerk	31,000
Assistant Municipal Clerk	25,969
Town Clerk Expenses	1,850
Town Report	750
Collector	23,849
Town Collector Expenses	10,905

Legal Expenses	7,000
Town Hall Expenses	14,000
Town Hall Utilities	12,000
Elected Select Board Chair	1,500
Elected Select Board Salaries (2) @ 1,250	2,500
Select Board Expenses	2,000
Elected Moderator	150
Treasurer Salary	14,900
Treasurer Expenses	3,365
Tax Title	7,000
TOTAL	352,268

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available fund the following sums of money to pay for the following **CAPITAL EXPENDITURES** or act relative thereto:

Ambulance Capital	3,214
Ambulance Capital Building Debt	3,010

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the following sums of money to pay for **PUBLIC SAFETY** expenses or act relative thereto:

Animal Control Salary	2,000
Animal Control Expenses	900
Fire Chief Salary	7,500
Fire Chief Expenses	340
Fire Department Expenses	50,000
Fire Department Fuel	3,509
Emergency Manager Exp.	1,000
Emergency Mngr. Stipend	550
Emergency Mngr. Asst.	350
Emergency Call System	2,486
Lake Dam Inspection	2,000
Police Chief Salary	50,388
Police Department Exp.	50,000
Police Department Fuel	5,200
Drug/Alcohol Testing	300
Tree Warden	300
Tree Warden Expenses	8,000
Firearms Clerk	306
TOTAL	185,129

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the following sums of money to pay for **CULTURAL/RECREATIONAL EXPENSES** or act relative thereto:

Belding Memorial Library	43,012
Belding Memorial Park	12,370
Lake Invasives Removal	2,000
Historical Commission	500
Veterans Graves	1,000
TOTAL	58,882

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the following sums of money to pay for **SANITATION SERVICES** or act relative thereto:

Hilltown Resource Management	5,824
Transfer Station	98,765
Transfer Station Eng. Studies	19,500
Transfer Station Utilities	900
Inspector of Animals	350
TOTAL	125,339

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the following sums of money to pay for **HEALTH SERVICES** or act relative thereto.

Health Agent	8,000
Health Board Expenses	900
Elected Board of Health Stipend 3 @ 750	2,250
TOTAL	11,150

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the following sums of money to pay for **HIGHWAY AND ROAD EXPENSES** or act relative thereto:

General Highway	100,000
Labor	170,680
Highway Fuel	58,246
Highway Superintendent	56,721
Winter Roads	110,000
Street Lights	2,484
Lake Dam Maintenance	3,000

Retention Wall Repair	3,000
Winter Sidewalks	5,000
TOTAL	509,131

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the following sums of money to pay for **HUMAN SERVICES EXPENSES** or act relative thereto:

Senior Center	28,605
Local Council on Aging	750
Veterans' Council	3,837
Veterans' Benefits Local	15,548
TOTAL	48,740

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the following sums of money to pay for **EMPLOYEE BENEFIT EXPENSES** or act relative thereto:

Health Insurance	50,590
Medicare/FICA	11,220
Retiree Benefit-Health	8,568
Retirement Sys. Contributions	74,532
Unemployment	3,000
Workers Compensation	10,000
OPEB Stabilization	2,000
TOTAL	159,910

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the following sums of money to pay for **FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS EXPENSES** or act relative thereto:

Core Assessment	14,503
Accountant	22,167
Software	750
Procurement	2,560
Radio Maintenance	3,333
REPC	150
Building Inspector Program	6,500
TOTAL	49,963

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$140,426 from the Sewer Enterprise Fund for sewer expenses and to meet that appropriation by raising \$130,426 from sewer charges and transferring \$10,000 from retained earnings of the Sewer Enterprise Fund to pay for **SEWER EXPENSES** or act relative thereto:

Salaries and Benefits	79,306
Fixed Operating Costs	500
Volume Based Costs	55,620
Emergency Fund	5,000
TOTAL	140,426

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the following sums of money to pay for **DEBT EXPENSES** or act relative thereto:

Short Term Interest	7,500
Highway Debt - Garage	77,917
Highway Dump Truck	67,000
TOTAL	152,417

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash \$20,000 to pay for repair of **TOWN HALL STEEPLE**, or act relative thereto.

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the following Revolving Fund Accounts pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, to account for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 or act relative thereto:

Revolving Fund	Authorized to Spend	Revenue Source	Use of fund	FY2015 Spending Limit
Dog License and Control	Town Clerk	Licenses, fines and donations	Supplies, animal care, bylaw permitted expenses	\$2,500
Park	Park Commission	Program fees, donations	Park Expenses	\$1,500
Library	Library Board of Trustees	Fees, rental	Library expenses	\$2,500

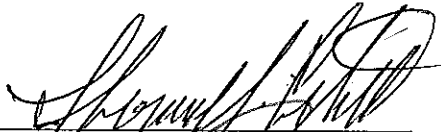
ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to accept and expend any grants and/or gifts that may become available, or act relative thereto.

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to dispose of any unused town-owned equipment and/or property, or act relative thereto.

And you are directed to serve this Warrant, by posting up attested copies thereof at the ASHFIELD TOWN HALL and the ASHFIELD POST OFFICE 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 this day under our hands this 24th day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and fifteen.

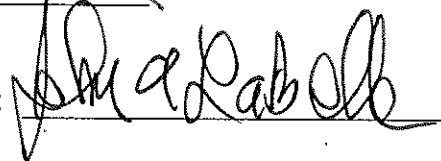


Thomas S. Carter, Chair

Ron Coler, Vice-Chair

Ashfield Select Board

Todd Olanyk

A true copy. Attest:  Constable

Franklin, SS

Pursuant to the within warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Ashfield by posting up attested copies of the same at the Ashfield Town Hall and the Ashfield Post Office

8 days before the date of the meeting as within directed.



Constable of Ashfield

Date 4-24-15