

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 SEVENTH day of MAY 2016**, 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, TWO FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, 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 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER for an unexpired term of one (1) year. A CONSTABLE for a term of one (1) year.

To vote on the following questions:

Ballot Question #1

Shall the Town of Ashfield be allowed to assess an additional \$120,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of paying for town and school expenses for the fiscal year beginning July first, two thousand and sixteen?

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 purchase of a back hoe?

Polls to be closed at 6:00 PM.

RECOMMENDED BY UNANIMOUS (4-0-0) VOTE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to set the stipends and compensations 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, 2016**, as contained in the budget, or act relative thereto.

Art. 3 – RECOMMENDED BY UNANIMOUS (4-0-0) VOTE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

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, 2016**, 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.

(Requires a two-thirds vote)

Art. 4 – RECOMMENDED BY UNANIMOUS (4-0-0) VOTE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will be allowed to assess an additional **\$120,000** in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of paying for town and school expenses for the fiscal year beginning **July 1, 2016**, or act relative thereto.

Art. 5 – RECOMMENDED BY (3-1-0) VOTE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following **General Bylaw** for the Town of Ashfield pursuant to the responsibilities and duties of the Town Administrator, or act relative thereto.

The Town shall establish and maintain the office of a full-time Town Administrator, who shall be the Chief Administrative Officer, and whose responsibilities and duties shall be described in the position description. The Select Board shall appoint, and may remove, a Town Administrator.

The Town Administrator shall be the Chief Administrative Officer of the Town the duties of which shall include, but are not limited to:

- Prepare a comprehensive annual operating budget and capital improvement plan
- Recruit, hire and supervise department heads;
- Act as the liaison with state and federal government, local civic and business entities;

- Facilitate the flow of information between elected officials, employees, and citizens;
- Serve as the Chief Procurement Officer.

The Town Administrator shall perform duties as detailed in Town Administrator Job Description, and all other duties as assigned and commensurate with the job of Town Administrator.

Art. 6 – RECOMMENDED BY UNANIMOUS (4-0-0) VOTE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 7: 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, REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL EXPENSE, VOCATIONAL SCHOOL EXPENSES AND EDUCATIONAL CAPITAL EXPENSES**, or act relative thereto.

Educational Expenses	
School Committee Stipends (2@\$500)	1,000
Regional Education Expense	2,174,456
Mohawk Trail Capital Expense	56,814
Vocational School Expense	461,401
Total:	2,693,671

Art. 7 – RECOMMENDED BY (3-0-1) VOTE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to accept the amended Mohawk Trail Regional Agreement, to be effective July 1, 2016, or act relative thereto.

Explanation:

*This proposed Amendment makes a number of relatively small changes to the Regional Agreement, effective July 1, 2016. The most important of these would be to clearly establish the District’s authority to operate, and to assess District Towns for, a pre-K to 12 educational program. Accordingly, all references to “K-12,” or “K-6” in the existing Agreement would instead be changed to “Pre-K to 12” and “Pre-K to 6.” This amendment also would specify that, for purposes of calculating each Town’s operating and capital assessments, the District would begin including pre-K students in total enrollment numbers as of the **October 1, 2015** enrollment census and annually thereafter. (Free, half-day pre-K was made available to all pre-K students across the District in the fall of 2015.) A five-year rolling average of each Town’s total enrollment in District schools forms the basis for assessing Towns for operating and capital costs.*

The full amended agreement text is on file and available in the Town Clerk’s Office, on the Town’s website, www.ashfield.org, and will be available at Town Meeting.

**Art. 8 – RECOMMENDED BY UNANIMOUS (4-0-0) VOTE OF FINANCE
COMMITTEE**

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to accept the addition of the Town of Rowe as a 7-12 member of the District, to be effective July 1, 2017, or act relative thereto.

Explanation:

This proposed Amendment would permit the Town of Rowe to rejoin the Mohawk District as a Grade 7-12 Member Town (i.e., the same status as the existing District towns of Hawley and Charlemont), effective July 1, 2017. (Rowe Elementary School would not become part of the Mohawk District, but rather would remain part of the Northern Berkshire School Union.) Like all 7-12 District Towns, Rowe would elect 2 voting representatives to the Mohawk School Committee. Each Rowe member's vote would represent 1.9% (or 3.8% in aggregate) of the total weighted votes (100%) of the Committee. Rowe would be assessed as are other 7-12 Member Towns for its share of the District's 7-12 operating and capital costs, and Rowe would no longer pay annual tuition for its 7-12 students.

The full amended agreement text is on file and available in the Town Clerk's Office, on the Town's website, www.ashfield.org, and will be available at Town Meeting. Please note that if all amendments to the Regional Agreement pass, it will necessitate re-numbering of some sections and paragraphs.

**Art. 9 – NO RECOMMENDATION BY UNANIMOUS (4-0-0) VOTE OF
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to amend the MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT – REGIONAL DISTRICT AGREEMENT, to be effective July 1, 2016, by striking certain language and adding other language related to how to amend the agreement and the closing of district schools, or act relative thereto.

Explanation:

*Currently, in order for any proposed Amendment to the Regional Agreement to become effective, it must be approved unanimously by all Member Towns, with approval being a majority vote at a Town Meeting. This proposed Amendment, to be effective as of July 1, 2016, would permit Amendments to become effective upon an affirmative vote of 2/3 of District towns (i.e., 6 of the 8 current Member Towns, or 6 of 9 towns, should the Rowe amendment pass). **There is one important exception.** Any amendment that requires closure of a District school must be approved by the Town (or Towns) whose school(s) would be closed, i.e., that Town (or Towns) would have to be among the 2/3 majority of Towns voting to approve the amendment. If an affected Town votes against the amendment, the amendment would fail.*

The full amended agreement text is on file and available in the Town Clerk's Office, on

the Town's website, www.ashfield.org, and will be available at Town Meeting. Please note that if all amendments to the Regional Agreement pass, it will necessitate re-numbering of some sections and paragraphs.

Art. 10 – RECOMMENDED BY (3-0-1) VOTE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the purchase of a back hoe, or act relative thereto.

Art. 11 – RECOMMENDED BY (3-0-1) VOTE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from Free Cash, or otherwise provide the following sums of money to pay for **AMBULANCE SERVICE**, or act relative thereto.

Ambulance Expenses	
Highland Ambulance Assessment	51,923
Ambulance Radio Assessment	1,692
Ambulance Capital	1,062
Ambulance Capital Building	11,556
Total	66,233

Art 12 – RECOMMENDED BY UNANIMOUS (4-0-0) VOTE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

Art. 13 – RECOMMENDED BY UNANIMOUS (4-0-0) VOTE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from Free Cash, the Fred Cross Fund, or otherwise provide the following sums of money to pay for **GENERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENSES**, or act relative thereto.

General Government Expenses	
Appeals Board	780
Assessor Chair	1,500
Assessor 2 @ \$1250	2,500
Assessors' Clerk	16,306
Assessors' Expenses	33,874

Auditor	6,500
Energy Manager	3,506
Conservation Commission	1,380
Bonds	1,200
Property Insurance/Liability	54,906
Special Project Staffing	1,000
Information Technology Expense	17,200
Planning Board	1,000
Elections	6,200
Registrars of Voters	600
Town Administrator Salary	61,200
Town Administrator Expenses	2,000
Street Lists	850
Municipal Town Clerk	31,620
Assistant Municipal Clerk	26,488
Town Clerk Expenses	2,100
Annual Report	750
Collector	24,325
Town Collector Expenses	11,278
Legal Expense	6,000
Town Hall Expenses	14,075
Town Building Committee	10,000
Town Hall Steward	600
Town Hall Utilities	12,000
Select Board Chair	1,500
Select Board 2 @ \$1250	2,500
Select Board Expenses	2,000
Moderator	150
Treasurer Salary	15,198
Treasurer Expenses	3,465
Total	376,551

Art. 14 – RECOMMENDED BY UNANIMOUS (4-0-0) VOTE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from Free Cash, or otherwise provide the following sums of money to pay for the following **CAPITAL EXPENDITURES**, or act relative thereto:

Capital Expenditures	
Backhoe Purchase Account	70,000
Cruiser Purchase Account	20,000
Total	90,000

Art. 15 – RECOMMENDED BY (3-1-0) VOTE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from Free Cash, the Dog License and Control Fund, or otherwise provide the following sums of money to pay for **PUBLIC SAFETY EXPENSES**, or act relative thereto:

Public Safety Expenses	
Animal Control Salary	2,300
Animal Control Expenses	1,850
Fire Chief	7,500
Fire Chief Expenses	340
Fire Department Expenses	45,400
Fire Department Fuel	3,109
Emergency Manager	600
Emergency Manager Exp.	1,000
Emergency Manager Asst.	375
Ashfield Lake Dam Inspection	2,000
Police Chief Salary	51,395
Police Department Exp.	45,200
Police Fuel	4,700
Drug/Alcohol Testing	300
Emergency Call System	2,486
Inspector of Animals	350
Tree Warden	300
Tree Warden Expenses	2,000
Total	171,205

Art. 16 – RECOMMENDED BY UNANIMOUS (4-0-0) VOTE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from Free Cash, or otherwise provide the following sums of money to pay for **CULTURAL / RECREATIONAL EXPENSES**, or act relative thereto:

Cultural/Recreational Expenses	
Belding Memorial Library	45,017
Belding Memorial Park	12,058
Lake Invasive Species Removal	9,000
Historical Commission	500
Veterans Graves	1,000
Belding Memorial Library Renovations	12,500
Total	80,075

Art. 17 – RECOMMENDED BY UNANIMOUS (4-0-0) VOTE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

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 **SANITATION SERVICE EXPENSES**, or act relative thereto:

Sanitation Service Expenses	
Hilltown Resource Mgmt.	8,328
Transfer Station	90,185
Transfer Station Utilities	900
Mandated Transfer Station Improvements	50,000
Total	149,413

Art. 18 – RECOMMENDED BY UNANIMOUS (4-0-0) VOTE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from Free Cash, or otherwise provide the following sums of money to pay for **HEALTH SERVICE EXPENSES**, or act relative thereto:

Health Service Expenses	
Health Agent	8,000
Health Board Expenses	900
Health Board 3 @ \$750	2,250
Total	11,150

Art. 19 – RECOMMENDED BY UNANIMOUS (4-0-0) VOTE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

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 **HIGHWAY AND ROAD EXPENSES**, or act relative thereto:

Highway & Road Expenses	
General Highway	100,000
Labor	169,095
Highway Fuel	50,000
Highway Superintendent	57,855
Snow & Ice Removal Exp.	110,000
Street Lights	3,100
Lake Dam Maintenance	3,000
Retention Wall Repair	3,000
Winter Sidewalks	5,000
Total	501,050

Art. 20 – RECOMMENDED BY UNANIMOUS (4-0-0) VOTE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

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 **HUMAN SERVICES EXPENSES**, or act relative thereto:

Human Service Expenses	
Senior Center	26,419
Local Council on Aging	800
Veterans' District	2,721
Veterans' Benefits Local	12,360
Total	42,300

Art. 21 – RECOMMENDED BY UNANIMOUS (4-0-0) VOTE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

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 **EMPLOYEE BENEFIT EXPENSES**, or act relative thereto:

Employee Benefit Expenses	
Health Insurance	57,159
Medicare/FICA	11,000
Retiree Benefit - Health	7,536
Franklin Regional Retirement	76,280
Unemployment Insurance	3,000
Workers Comp	11,000

OPEB Stabilization	2,000
Total	167,975

Art. 22 – RECOMMENDED BY UNANIMOUS (4-0-0) VOTE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

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 **FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS EXPENSES**, or act relative thereto:

FRCOG Expenses	
Core Assessment	14,824
Accountant	23,105
Procurement	2,798
Radio Maintenance	3,384
Regional Emergency Planning Committee (REPC)	150
Building Inspector	7,500
Total	51,761

Art. 23 – RECOMMENDED BY UNANIMOUS (4-0-0) VOTE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

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 **DEBT SERVICE EXPENSES**, or act relative thereto:

Debt Service Expenses	
Short Term Interest	7,500
Highway Debt Garage	76,480
Highway Dump Truck	51,900
Total	135,880

Art. 24 – RECOMMENDED BY UNANIMOUS (4-0-0) VOTE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$148,504** from the Sewer Enterprise Fund to pay for Fiscal Year 2017 **SEWER EXPENSES**, or act relative thereto.

Sewer Expenses	
Salaries and Benefits	81,354

Fixed Operating costs	500
Volume Based costs	61,650
Emergency Fund	5,000
Total	148,504

Art. 25 – RECOMMENDED BY UNANIMOUS (4-0-0) VOTE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Sewer Enterprise Fund, transfer from Sewer Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings, or otherwise provide a sum not to exceed \$25,000 to fund the following:

- An Infiltration/Inflow Analysis required by 314 CMR 12.04 (2) (c) 1. to be submitted on or before December 31, 2017;
- An engineering report required to satisfy Supplemental Condition 16a of the Ground Water Discharge Permit and required for 2017 permit renewal.

Art. 26 – RECOMMENDED BY UNANIMOUS (4-0-0) VOTE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

Art. 27 – RECOMMENDED BY UNANIMOUS (4-0-0) VOTE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from Free Cash, or otherwise provide the sum of \$60,000 for a Broadband Development Account, or act relative thereto.

Art. 28 – RECOMMENDED BY (3-0-1) VOTE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to authorize creation of a **PIPELINE OPPOSITION/MITIGATION ACCOUNT** to be administered by the Select Board, for expenses related to opposition and/or mitigation of the Northeast Energy Direct Project proposed by Tennessee Gas Pipeline, LLC; and raise and appropriate, transfer from Free Cash, Grant Program Income, or otherwise provide the amount of \$15,000, or act relative thereto.

Art. 29 – RECOMMENDED BY UNANIMOUS (4-0-0) VOTE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 30: 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, 2016, or act relative thereto.

Revolving Fund	Authorized to Spend	Revenue Source	Use of fund	FY2017 Spending Limit
Dog License and Control	Town Clerk	Licenses, fines, and donations	Supplies, animal care, bylaw permitted expenses	\$5,000
Park	Park Commission	Program fees, donations	Park Expenses	\$1,500
Library	Library Board of Trustees	Fees, rental	Library Expenses	\$2,500

ARTICLE 31: 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.

Art. 31 – RECOMMENDED BY UNANIMOUS (4-0-0) VOTE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

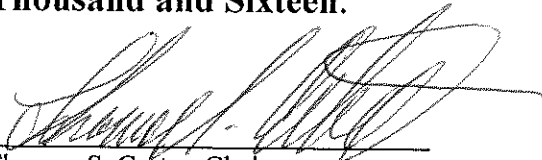
ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to dispose of any unused town-owned equipment and/or property, or act relative thereto.

Art. 32 – RECOMMENDED BY UNANIMOUS (4-0-0) VOTE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

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 (7) 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 ____ day of April in the year **Two Thousand and Sixteen.**



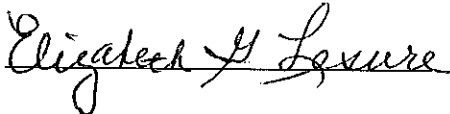
Thomas S. Carter, Chair

Ashfield Select Board

Ron Coler, Vice-Chair



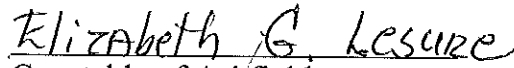
Todd Olanyk

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

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



Constable of Ashfield

04-26-16

Date