

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

FRANKLIN SS.

To any 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 **TUESDAY the TWENTY-NINTH day of NOVEMBER 2022**, at **SEVEN O'CLOCK (7:00)** in the evening, then and there to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1: Collector Salary Appropriation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to a new Certified Collector Salary Line for the purpose of paying an annual bonus to the newly certified town collector as authorized under Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 41 §108P and as adopted by voters at the May 2018 Annual Town Meeting or act relative thereto.

Explanation: The town adopted MGL Chapter 41, §108P in May 2018, which allows the town to pay up to an additional \$1,000 "bonus" per year to a certified collector or treasurer. The town's collector recently became certified by the Massachusetts Collector Treasurer Association, but funds were not budgeted for this additional compensation.

Proposed by the Select Board
Recommended by the Finance Committee (4-0-0)
Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 2: Police Cruiser Appropriation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money, not to exceed \$40,000, for the purpose of funding the purchase of a police cruiser, or act relative thereto.

Explanation: If the town commits to buying a new police cruiser before the end of the calendar year, the savings over a 2023 model will be approximately \$14,000. However, the town cannot contract to purchase a new model without full funding in place. \$25,000 was previously appropriated at the Annual Town Meeting, bringing the total funding to a maximum of \$65,000.

Proposed by the Select Board
Recommended by the Finance Committee (4-0-0)
Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 3: Vacation Payout Appropriation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 for the purpose of funding a payout of employee vacations or act relative thereto.

Explanation: To limit long-term liability, the Select Board changed the vacation rollover policy in July to lower the maximum amount of vacation that can be rolled over each year to two weeks. To ensure current employees are not being negatively impacted by this change, the Board agreed to seek funding for a one-time payout of unused vacation leave. This appropriation would cover payouts for all benefited employees with unused vacation time.

Proposed by the Select Board
Recommended by the Finance Committee (4-0-0)
Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 4: Street Lights Appropriation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 for the purpose of purchasing streetlights or act relative thereto.

Explanation: Grants have regularly been made available to convert streetlights to LED fixtures, resulting in a significant cost savings and energy reduction. One requirement is that the town must first own the streetlights to qualify for a grant. This would allow the town to be prepared to apply when the next cycle opens.

Proposed by the Select Board
Recommended by the Finance Committee (4-0-0)
Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 5: Vocational Education Appropriation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 to the Vocation Education Expense Line or act relative thereto.

Explanation: As final numbers for vocational enrollment and transportation costs are not known until the summer, the amount presented to town meeting in May is an estimate based on available data. This year enrollment is higher than anticipated and there is expected to be a shortfall. There is also no room in the budget for any mid-year enrollment changes.

Proposed by the Select Board
Recommended by the Finance Committee (4-0-0)
Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 6: Park Commission Bylaw Change

To see if the town will vote to amend the town's general bylaws pertaining to the Park Commission to expand the Commission from three members to five members, with two to be elected in each of two successive years, and one to be elected in every third year, all for three-year terms. At the 2023 annual town election, one additional commissioner shall be elected for a term of three years and one additional commissioner shall be elected for two years, and every three years thereafter, or act relative thereto.

Explanation: The Park Commission's work relies almost exclusively on volunteer commissioners, and the workload has increased over the last few years with no corresponding increase in membership. This would add two more seats to the Commission for a total of five, with those two additional seats to be elected at the annual town election in May.

Proposed by the Park Commission
Recommended by the Finance Committee (4-0-0)
Majority Vote Required

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, fourteen (14) 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 **14th** day of **November** in the year **Two Thousand and Twenty-Two**.

Thomas S. Carter, Chair

Todd M. Olanyk, Vice-Chair

Ashfield Select Board

Steven R. Gougeon, Member

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

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

Constable of Ashfield

Date