

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

FRANKLIN SS.

To any of the Constables of the Town of Ashfield in the 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 SIXTH day of MAY 2023**, at **NINE-THIRTY (9:30)** in the morning, then and there to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1: FY2023 Broadband Enterprise Fund Budget Revision

To see if the town will:

Vote to transfer the sum of \$311,652.82 from the Broadband Debt Payment Account (May 2022 Annual Town Meeting, Article 21) and \$14,023.18 from the Civil Defense Broadband Line (001-291-5460) to the Broadband Enterprise Fund FY2023 Budget,

and to further

Revise the Broadband Enterprise Fund FY2023 Budget from what was approved at the May 2022 Annual Town Meeting to read as follows:

Revenues	
Subscriber Fee Revenues	\$765,960.00
Anticipated Grant Revenues	\$325,676.00
Broadband Debt Payment Transfer	\$311,652.82
Civil Defense Broadband Account Transfer	\$14,023.18
Retained Earnings	\$275,799.00
TOTAL	\$1,367,435.00
Expenses	
Salaries & Benefits Costs	\$6,000.00
Operational Costs	\$567,598.00
Indirect Costs	\$0.00
Capital Costs	\$43,160.00
Debt Payments	\$750,677.00
TOTAL	\$1,367,435.00

Explanation: The FY2023 budget was built using \$325,676 in grant revenues that were due to come to the town in early 2023. However, due to a delay in grant payments, the funds will not be received until Fall 2023, or in FY2024. This grant was to be used for debt payments which were made in November. This leaves a deficit of \$325,676. There were funds available for the paydown of debt that did not get paid out in November, so these can therefore be used to offset the deficit.

ARTICLE 2: Lake Dam Transfer

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$88,000 to the Lake Dam Project Account (Fund 444) or act relative thereto.

Explanation: The voters authorized a debt exclusion allowing the town to borrow up to \$250,000 for the lake dam project. As this project winds down, the town's portion will be approximately \$270,000, of which \$182,000 has already been appropriated from other non-borrowing sources. By funding the remaining \$88,000 from free cash, the town will not need to borrow for this project and avoids adding it to the tax bill.

Proposed by the Select Board
Recommended by the Finance Committee (5-0-0)
Majority Vote Required

Article 3: Winter Roads Transfer

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$50,000 to the Snow & Ice Removal General Expense Line, also known as "Winter Roads" (001-423-5400) or act relative thereto.

Explanation: As the budget is approved well before winter begins, it is impossible to predict how much money will be needed. This account is permitted by the state to be deficit spent. Due to some heavier snow storms, including the March Nor'easter, this account needed to run into the negative. This transfer corrects that negative, which otherwise gets added to the tax bill.

Proposed by the Select Board
Recommended by the Finance Committee (5-0-0)
Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 4: Emergency Management Transfer

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$1,500 from the Emergency Management Expense Line (001-291-5400) to a new Generator Shed Account or act relative thereto.

Explanation: \$1,500 was appropriated as part of the Emergency Management Expenses for FY2023. However, this project cannot be completed by the end of the Fiscal Year. Therefore, these funds must be appropriated to a new special project line to be accessible in FY2024 or they revert to the general fund and become part of free cash.

Proposed by the Select Board
Recommended by the Finance Committee (5-0-0)
Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 5: Financial Consulting Transfer 1

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$15,000 from the Health Insurance Line (001-914-5400) to the Data – Contracted Services Line (001-155-5400) or act relative thereto.

Explanation: The treasurer's cash book from FY2022 was unable to be balanced with the accounting ledger by in-house staff after a turnover in staff and a vacancy for several months. This prevented the town from closing out the FY2022 books or certifying Free Cash. To fix this the town hired an outside consultant which was not budgeted for. FY2022 has now been reconciled/closed and FY2023 is being brought up to date.

Proposed by the Select Board
Recommended by the Finance Committee (5-0-0)
Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 6: Financial Consulting Transfer 2

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$11,000 from the Vocational Education Expense Line (001-320-5400) to the Audit Line (001-135-5420) or act relative thereto.

Explanation: Some bills for the consultant (see previous article) were paid for out of the audit line. These funds replenish that line.

Proposed by the Select Board
Recommended by the Finance Committee (5-0-0)
Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 7: Accountant Transfer

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$4,000 from the Vocational Education Expense Line (001-320-5400) to a new Town Accountant Salary Line or act relative thereto.

Explanation: The town will be leaving our contract with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments Accounting Program at the end of June. A new accountant will be hired in mid-May. Funds will be needed to cover ~1.5 months of overlap with these positions so that the hired person can learn the systems before taking over on July 1st.

Proposed by the Select Board
Recommended by the Finance Committee (5-0-0)
Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 8: Medicare Tax Transfer

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$3,000 from the Health Insurance Line (001-914-5400) to the Medicare General Expense Line (001-916-5400) or act relative thereto.

Explanation: When budgeting, the amount set aside for the town's portion of the Medicare tax is a best guess. The average amount being paid out each payroll is approximately \$100 higher than what was budgeted- for a shortfall of around \$2,600. This amount covers that deficit.

Proposed by the Select Board
Recommended by the Finance Committee (5-0-0)
Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 9: Tractor Fund Transfer

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$4,645.50 from the Highway Tractor Account (001-422-5829) to the Highway General Expense Account (001-422-5400) or act relative thereto.

Explanation: The tractor replacement project ended with some leftover funds and the highway truck replacement costs came in higher than anticipated. The difference was paid out of the Highway General Expense Account- these funds replenish that.

Proposed by the Select Board
Recommended by the Finance Committee (5-0-0)
Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 10: Vacation Buyout Transfer

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$5,980.08 from the Vacation Buyout Account (001-152-5155) to the Highway General Expense Account (001-422-5400) or act relative thereto.

Explanation: All employees were paid out for their unused vacation time as authorized by the November 2022 special town meeting. This is the leftover balance of that account. The highway truck replacement costs came in higher than anticipated. The difference was paid out of the Highway General Expense Account- these funds replenish that.

Proposed by the Select Board
Recommended by the Finance Committee (5-0-0)
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 **10th** day of **April** in the year **Two Thousand and Twenty-Three**.

Thomas S. Carter, Chair

Todd M. Olanyk, Vice-Chair

Steven R. Gougeon, Member

Ashfield Select Board

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