



**TOWN OF PAXTON
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 2, 2022, 7:00PM**

The meeting was held in the cafeteria at Paxton Center School at 19 West Street and was called to order at 7:05pm. The Town Moderator, Roger Brunelle, declared that a quorum was present. 89 registered voters were signed in by the Board of Registrars. The return of the warrant showed that the meeting had been properly posted. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

As the first item of business, the Moderator requested that Town Meeting adopt a rule of this Annual Town Meeting to provide that any motion requiring a two-thirds favorable vote, by statute or otherwise, shall be determined and declared by the Town Moderator and a count shall not be taken unless requested by the Town Moderator or requested by seven or more voters in attendance.

MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE RULE HAD BEEN ADOPTED.

Before the business of the meeting began, Selectboard Member Julia Pingitore came forward to make a presentation. Julia introduced the new Town Administrator (TA), Heather Munroe, whose term begins on May 9, 2022. Julia recognized the TA Search Committee who put in many hours, including late nights, to ensure that a new qualified TA was selected within strict time constraints. Lastly, Pingitore recognized Peter Bogren, Jr. for his twelve years on the Board of Selectmen noting that he led with presence, poise, and professionalism.

Article 1 – Water Department Receipts To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate through Water Department receipts, water fees, or water charges, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to operate the Water Enterprise, as follows:

Compensation	\$221,488
Expenses	\$741,109
<u>Debt</u>	<u>\$107,158</u>
Total	\$1,069,755

and that \$1,069,755 is raised as follows:

Department receipts \$1,069,755
Or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Water Commissioners.

Peter Bogren, chair of the Selectboard, moved that the Town raise and appropriate through Water Department Receipts, the following sums to operate the Water Enterprise.

Compensation: \$221,488

Expenses:	\$741,109
Debt	<u>\$107,158</u>
Total:	\$1,069,755

The motion was seconded by John Malone.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Article 2 – Police Vehicles

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 21C, of the Massachusetts General Laws to enter into a three year “lease to own” agreement for the purpose of acquiring a SUV and Utility Pick Up Truck for the Police Department in the amount of \$88,500 to replace two existing cruisers/vehicles with a first-year lease payment of \$29,500, and the remaining two annual payments to be raised and appropriated as part of the Police Department budget; or act any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Police Department.

Peter Bogren moved that the Town vote to enter into a three year “lease to own” agreement for the purpose of acquiring an SUV and a Utility Pick Up Truck for the Police Department in the amount of \$88,500 to replace two existing cruisers/vehicles, with a first-year lease payment of \$29,500, and the remaining two annual payments to be raised and appropriated as part of the Police Department budget.

The motion was seconded by John Malone.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED WITH MORE THAN A TWO THIRDS MAJORITY.

Article 3 – Tivnan Field

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$80,000 for the replacement of outdoor lights at Tivnan Field and the basketball court at the Center Field Recreation Area; provided, however, that this appropriation shall be contingent upon passage of Proposition 2 ½ capital expenditure exclusion referendum to assess additional real estate and personal property taxes for a single year under Chapter 59, Section 21C (i ½), of the General Laws; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Recreation Commission.

Peter Bogren moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$80,000 for the replacement of outdoor lights at Tivnan Field and the basketball court at the Center Field Recreation Area; provided, however, that this appropriation shall be contingent upon passage of Proposition 2 ½ capital expenditure exclusion referendum to assess additional real estate and personal property taxes for a single year under Chapter 59, Section 21C (i ½), of the General Laws.

The motion was seconded by Julia Pingitore.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval.
Finance Committee recommended disapproval.

Jeff Cormier, Chair of the Recreation Commission, moved that the Town amend the original motion to move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$80,000 for the replacement of outdoor lights at Tivnan Field; provided, however, that this appropriation shall be contingent upon passage of Proposition 2 ½ capital expenditure exclusion referendum to assess additional real estate and personal property taxes for a single year under Chapter 59, Section 21C (i ½), of the General Laws.

The amended motion was seconded.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION TO AMEND THE ORIGINAL MOTION PASSED.

Discussion ensued. Jack Malone made a motion to move the question. The motion was seconded. The Moderator declared the motion to move the question failed. Discussion continued.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE AMENDED MOTION PASSED.

Article 4 – New Security System and Cameras at Paxton Center School To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$50,000 to install a new security system and cameras at the Paxton Center School; provided, however, that this appropriation shall be contingent upon passage of Proposition 2 ½ capital expenditure exclusion referendum to assess additional real estate and personal property taxes for a single year under Chapter 59, Section 21C (i ½), of the General Laws; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Wachusett Regional School District Committee.

Karl Ottmar, member of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee, moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$50,000 to install a new security system and cameras at the Paxton Center School; provided, however, that this appropriation shall be contingent upon passage of Proposition 2 ½ capital expenditure exclusion referendum to assess additional real estate and personal property taxes for a single year under Chapter 59, Section 21C (i ½), of the General Laws.

The motion was seconded by Emerson Wheeler, III.

Selectboard recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommend disapproval.

Discussion ensued. The Board of Selectmen wanted to pass over this article at this meeting because they believe there was an administrative error, and this item was not on the final report of the Capital Improvements Planning Committee (CIPC) as required by the CIPC bylaws. Julia Pingitore stated that if voters supported Question 2 on Election Day, then it was likely that a Special Town Meeting would be called. If a properly posted warrant for a Special Town Meeting is held within ninety days of the Annual Town Election, and if a majority of voters passed Question 2 and the Article at the Special Town Meeting then they could move forward with the project.

Karl Ottmar moved that this motion be tabled until the next meeting. The motion was seconded.

Roger Brunelle clarified that the motion is to table the pending motion.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION TO TABLE THE ORIGINAL MOTION PASSED. NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON ARTICLE 4.

Article 5 – New Phone System for Town Buildings To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Capital Depreciation Fund the sum \$27,500 to update/upgrade the telephone systems for the Town Hall, Council on Aging, Department of Public Works, and Richards Memorial Library; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Selectboard.

Peter Bogren moved that the Town vote to transfer from the Capital Depreciation Fund the sum \$27,500 to update/upgrade the telephone systems for the Town Hall, Council on Aging, Department of Public Works, and Richards Memorial Library.

The motion was seconded by Julia Pingitore.

Selectboard recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Article 6 –Deck for Side Boom Mower To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$18,500 from the Capital Depreciation Fund to purchase a new Side Boom Mower Deck for the Department of Public Works; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Department of Public Works.

Travis Thibault, Director of the Department of Public Works (DPW), moved that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$18,500 from the Capital Depreciation Fund to purchase a new Side Boom Mower Deck for the Department of Public Works.

The motion was seconded.

Selectboard recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Article 7 – Water Tank Maintenance To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from retained earnings of the Water Enterprise Fund the sum of \$107,189, or any other sum, to pay for the inspection, maintenance, repair or modification of the Asnebumskit Road Water Storage Tank in accordance with the third year of the existing contract with Suez Advanced Solutions; or act any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Water Commissioners.

Travis Thibault moved that the Town vote to appropriate from retained earnings of the Water Enterprise Fund the sum of \$107,189, to pay for the inspection, maintenance, repair, or modification of the Asnebumskit Road Water Storage Tank in accordance with the fourth year of the existing contract with Suez Advanced Solutions.

The motion was seconded.

It was noted that the warrant incorrectly stated it was the third year of the existing contract and that the motion stating it was the fourth year was correct.

Selectboard recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Article 8 – Appropriate Funds to Road Improvement To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$115,971 to the Road Improvement Capital Stabilization Fund, or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Selectboard.

Travis Thibault moved that the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$115,971 to the Road Improvement Capital Stabilization Fund.

The motion was seconded.

Selectboard recommended approval.
Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Article 9 – Use Funds from the Road Improvement To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$115,971 from the Road Improvement Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of resurfacing roads, or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Selectboard.

Travis Thibault moved that the town vote to appropriate the sum of \$115,971 from the Road Improvement Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of resurfacing roads.

The motion was seconded.

Selectboard recommended approval.
Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED BY MORE THAN A TWO THIRDS MAJORITY.

Article 10 – Chapter 90 To see if the Town will vote to accept any funds to be allocated by the Commonwealth under authorization of Chapter 90 of the Massachusetts General Laws, (pertaining to Highway Funds); to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into contracts for the construction, reconstruction, and improvement of Town roads; and to authorize the Town Treasurer to borrow in anticipation of receipt of said funds; said funds to be expended under the direction of the Director of Public Works; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by Selectboard and Director of Public Works.

Travis Thibault moved that the Town vote to accept any funds to be allocated by the Commonwealth under authorization of Chapter 90 of the Massachusetts General Laws, (pertaining to Highway Funds); to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into contracts for the construction, reconstruction, and improvement of Town roads; and to authorize the Town Treasurer to borrow in anticipation of receipt of said funds; said funds to be expended under the direction of the Director of Public Works.

The motion was seconded by Julia Pingitore.

Selectboard recommended approval.
Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Article 11 – Revolving Accounts To see if the Town will vote to set the annual expenditure limits for fiscal year 2023 for all revolving funds established under the General Bylaws, as set forth below, or act in any way thereon:

Council on Aging:	\$25,000
Recreation:	\$120,000
Library:	\$20,000
Paxton Days:	\$5,000

Article submitted by the Selectboard.

Peter Bogren moved that the Town vote pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, as most recently amended, to set the annual expenditure limits for fiscal year 2023, for all revolving accounts established under the Town of Paxton's General By-Laws, in the following amounts:

Council on Aging:	\$25,000
Recreation:	\$120,000
Library:	\$20,000
Paxton Days:	\$5,000

The motion was seconded by Julia Pingitore.

Selectboard recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Article 12 – Wachusett Greenways To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$1,000, or any other sum, to be used for the expenses for Wachusett Greenways, an eight-town collaborative, said funds to be administered and expended by Wachusett Greenways; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by Wachusett Greenways.

Peter Bogren moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to be used for the expenses for Wachusett Greenways, an eight-town collaborative, said funds to be administered and expended by Wachusett Greenways.

The motion was seconded by Julia Pingitore.

Selectboard recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Article 13 - Health Agent To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Health, in accordance with Section 21A of Chapter 268A of the Massachusetts General Laws, to appoint a member of said Board to serve as the Town's Health Agent, a position under the supervision of said Board; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Board of Health.

Sheryl Lombardi, Town Services Coordinator, moved that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Health, in accordance with Section 21A of Chapter 268A of the Massachusetts General Laws, to appoint a member of said Board to serve as the Town's Health Agent, a position under the supervision of said Board.

The motion was seconded.

Selectboard recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Article 14 – Certified Massachusetts Municipal Clerk To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 41, Section 19K of the Massachusetts General Laws providing for additional compensation for the Town Clerk upon obtaining certification by the Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association as a certified Massachusetts municipal clerk; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Town Clerk.

Peter Bogren moved that the Town vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 41, Section 19K of the Massachusetts General Laws providing for additional compensation for the Town Clerk upon obtaining certification by the Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association as a certified Massachusetts municipal clerk.

The motion was seconded by Julia Pingitore.

Selectboard recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommend approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Article 15 – Transfer of Land to Conservation Commission To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Title Custodian to transfer the parcel of Town-owned land consisting of 25.7 acres +/- located off of Wildewood Road and identified in Assessors Map 12 as Prevel 28, from the care, custody, and management of the Tax Title Custodian to the care, custody, and management of the Paxton Conservation Commission for conservation and passive recreation

purpose pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 8C, and Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by Conservation Commission.

Robert Ferguson, member of the Conservation Commission, moved that the Town vote to authorize the Tax Title Custodian to transfer the parcel of Town-owned land consisting of 25.7 acres +/- located off of Wilde Wood Road and identified in Assessors Map 12 as Prevel 28, from the care, custody, and management of the Tax Title Custodian to the care, custody, and management of the Paxton Conservation Commission for conservation and passive recreation purpose pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 8C, and Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution.

The motion was seconded.

Roger Brunelle suggested a friendly amendment to change the word “Prevel” to “Parcel” which was accepted by Robert Ferguson.

(Town Clerk’s Note: In the Assessor’s Database this parcel is referred to as being on Wilde Wood Road. All other parcels are listed as Wilde Wood Drive. In both the Assessor’s Database and for Voter Registration Wilde Wood is listed as two words, but the physical street sign is listed as Wildewood Drive.)

Selectboard recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Article 16 – Amendment to the Regional School Agreement To see if the Town will vote to approve a proposed amendment to the Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, to delete Section 16,Capital Expenditures from Surplus, which currently reads as follows;

Section 16. CAPITAL EXPENDITURES FROM SURPLUS

The Regional District School Committee may authorize capital expenditures from surplus funds for those purposes cited in General Laws, Chapter 71 Section 16, not to exceed \$250,000 in any fiscal year for any single project and provided two thirds of the members of the Committee voting on the question to authorize said expenditure.

And further to approve a proposed amendment to the Wachusett Regional School District Agreement by renumbering Sections 17, 18 and 19 to Sections 16, 17, and 18; or act in anyway thereon.

Article submitted by the Wachusett Regional School District Committee.

Karl Ottmar, WRSD Committee member, moved that the Town vote to approve a proposed amendment to the Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, to delete Section 16, Capital Expenditures from Surplus, and he moved that the Town further vote to approve a proposed amendment to the Wachusett Regional School District Agreement by renumbering Sections 17, 18 and 19 to Sections 16, 17, and 18.

The motion was seconded.

Selectboard recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Article 17 – Amendment to the Regional School Agreement To see if the Town will vote to approve a proposed amendment to the Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 71, Section 14E, by changing the language of Section 1 from:

Section 1 MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

1.1.1 The Wachusett Regional District School Committee, hereinafter referred to as "the Committee", shall consist of members from each Member Town, each such member to be a registered voter of the town such member represents. The Member Town with the smallest population as determined in accordance with paragraph 1. shall be entitled to elect two members to the committee, and the other Member Towns shall be entitled to elect members to the Committee on the following basis:

Proportion of Town's Population Number of Committee to that of Smallest Town Members

1.0 to 1.499	2
1.5 to 2.599	4
2.6 to 3.699	6
3.7 to 4.799	8
4.8 to 5.999	10
6.0 to 6.999	12
7.0 to 7.999	14
8.0 to 8.999	16
9.0 to 9.999	18

For every digit after 9.999, a Member Town shall be entitled to elect one additional member to the Committee. In 1994 and every year thereafter, members shall be elected to serve on the Committee at the annual town meeting of the

Member Towns. The method of nomination and election of the members to the Committee from a particular Member Town, shall be the same as if they were candidates for an elective office in such Member Town.

- 1.1.2 All members elected thereafter, except as provided in paragraph 1.1.4, shall be elected for a three (3) year term.
- 1.1.3 The population of the Member Towns shall be determined every five (5) years in accordance with the towns' annual census with the next five (5) year review to be conducted in calendar 2021 and certified by the respective town clerks. Any increase in membership resulting from population changes shall be elected at the annual town meeting following the review year.
- 1.1.4 In the event of a population change in a Member Town resulting in an increase in the number of members to be elected to the Committee, such increase shall be effective at the annual town meeting following the certification of the census. Initial terms of office shall be established by the Committee so as to equalize the number of expirations for each Member Town per year and secondarily, to equalize the number of expirations each year on the Committee.
- 1.1.5 In the event of a population change in a Member Town resulting in a decrease in the number of members to be elected to the Committee from a Member Town, such decrease shall be effective upon the earliest expiration of the term of office of the Member Town's representation of the Committee.
- 1.1.6 If a vacancy occurs on the Committee, or if there is a failure to elect, the Selectboard of the Member Town to which the vacancy relates shall fill such vacancy by appointment. The person so appointed shall be a registered voter of such town and shall perform the duties of the office until such town's next annual meeting and a successor is qualified; at such annual meeting, a successor shall be elected to fill the balance of the unexpired term.

To:

Section 1. MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

- 1.1 The Wachusett Regional District School Committee, hereinafter referred to as "the Committee," shall consist of a total of sixteen (16) members, each member hereinafter referred to as a "Member." Each Member shall be elected at their respective Member Town elections as detailed in Section 1.1.1. below, and in

accordance with M.G.L. c. 71, s. 14E (4). Six (6) Members of the Committee shall be residents of the Town of Holden, three (3) Members of the Committee shall be residents of the Town of Rutland, three (3) Members of the Committee shall be residents of the Town of Sterling, two (2) Members of the Committee shall be residents of the Town of Paxton, and two (2) Members of the Committee shall be residents of the Town of Princeton. As used in this Agreement, a person shall be deemed to be a “resident” and/or to meet the “residency” requirement for a particular Member Town only if such person is properly registered to vote in the respective Member Town.

- 1.1.1 The decreasing of the size of the School Committee shall occur as follows, commencing at the 2023 town elections. Just one (1) Member from the town of Sterling whose term is to expire in 2023 shall have their seat abolished at the conclusion of their term in 2023. The two (2) Members from the town of Holden whose terms are to expire in 2023 and who have received the least, and second-to-least elective votes shall have their seats abolished at the conclusion of their terms in 2023. The two (2) Members from the town of Holden whose terms are to expire in 2024 and who have received the least, and second-to-least elective votes shall have their seats abolished at the conclusion of their terms in 2024. The Member from the town of Rutland whose term is to expire in 2024 and who received the least elective votes shall have their seat abolished at the conclusion of their term in 2024. The Committee shall recalculate the weight of each Member’s vote, pursuant to Section 1.2, every time the number of Members on the Committee changes at any time for any reason.
- 1.2 To ensure compliance with federal, state, and regulatory laws, the weighted vote of all Members shall be recalculated by the Committee every five (5) years, or recalculated every time the number of members on the Committee changes, based upon Member Town population data taken from most recent Member Town census data, as certified by the Member Town Clerks, and shall be, as nearly as possible, in direct proportion to the population of the member town compared to the population of all member towns combined so that the actual weighted vote of each individual member is as nearly equal to one (1) as possible.
- 1.3. Commencing at the Reorganizational Meeting occurring on or after May 2023, all individual Committee votes, including Subcommittee votes, shall be based upon the allocation of proportional (weighted) votes of individual Committee Members, as detailed in Section 1.7.
- 1.4 Each Member must reside in the Member Town which she or he represents, as described in Section 1.1. Each Member must be elected consistent with the process for the election of Member Town officials in said Member Town and will be elected to open seats during the annual election or a special election in said town. The term of each elected member will begin on the first business day after their election and after being sworn in by the respective Town Clerk. A member who has not

otherwise vacated their seat will continue to serve until their successor is elected and sworn.

1.5 Except as otherwise stated in Section 1.1.1. in the year first following the acceptance of this Amended Regional Agreement by all Member Towns and the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, hereinafter referred to as the “Commissioner,” each member will serve a three (3) year term after being duly elected to a three-year seat at the Member Town’s Annual Election.

1.6 If a vacancy on the Committee occurs for any reason, the Selectboard from the Member Town involved shall appoint a Member to serve until the next annual town election, at which election a successor shall be elected to serve the balance of the unexpired term, if any. This Section 1.6 shall apply to all Member seats, including those Member seats that are vacated prior to being abolished pursuant to Section 1.1.1.

1.7 Commencing at the Reorganizational Meeting occurring on or after May 2023, each Member’s vote shall be weighted, as nearly as possible, in direct proportion to the population of the member town compared to the population of all member towns combined so that the actual weighted vote of each individual member is as nearly equal to one (1) as possible. For example, and for illustrative purposes only, if the 2020 Town census figures were used in calculating weighted voting for the sixteen (16) Member Committee, this 2020 data would result in the following weighted voting factors:

Individual Member Weighted Factor per Member Town	Census Population	Percentage of Combined Population	Committee Members	Total Voting Weight
Total 5 Towns	45,438	100%	16	16
HOLDEN	19,905	43.81%	6	7.01
1.16/Member				
PAXTON	5,004	11.01%	2	1.76
0.88/Member				

PRINCETON	3,495	7.69%	2	1.23
0.62/Member				
RUTLAND	9,049	19.92%	3	3.18
1.06/Member				
STERLING	7,985	17.57%	3	2.82
0.94/Member				

1.8 The quorum for the transaction of Committee business shall be a majority of the total vote value (i.e., 16.0) of all of the Committee Members as defined in Section 1.7 above. A weighted vote total less than a majority may adjourn but may take no other action.

1.9 The quorum for the transaction of each Subcommittee's business shall be a majority of the total vote value of all of the appointed Members to the respective Subcommittee. A weighted vote less than a majority as defined in this Section may adjourn but may take no other action.

1.10 Except where otherwise provided by statute, regulation, or by the terms of this Agreement, actions by the Committee will be taken by the weighted vote pursuant to Roberts Rules of Order's protocols that correspond to the particular type of vote being taken.

1.10.1 In order to approve the District's annual budget, to approve the incurring of debt, or to apportion among the Member Towns the amounts necessary to be raised in order to support the budget, or any other vote requiring a two-third majority vote by statute or regulation, a combined total of weighted votes equal to or exceeding 66.67% of the weighted vote of the entire Committee (i.e., not merely two thirds of the weighted vote of those present) shall be required.

1.11 Except where otherwise provided by statute, regulation, or by the terms of this Agreement, actions by a Subcommittee will also be taken by weighted vote total pursuant to "Roberts Rules of Order's" protocols that correspond to the particular type of vote being taken. For these purposes, a majority vote shall mean an affirmative vote by more than half of the weighted vote total of the Members

present at a properly called meeting of the respective Subcommittee for which a quorum is present.

or act in anyway thereon.

Article submitted by the Wachusett Regional School District Committee.

Karl Ottmar moved that I move that the Town vote to approve a proposed amendment to the Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 14E, by changing the language of Section 1 from its current content to the proposed language for section 1 contained in Article 17 of the Town Warrant.

The motion was seconded.

Selectboard recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Article 18 – Amendment to the Regional School Agreement To see if the Town will vote to approve a proposed amendment to the Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, as follows:

1. By changing the language of Section 11.3 from:

11.3 The Committee may determine by a majority vote to assign pre-kindergarten through grade eight (8) pupils to schools in other than their town of residence in case of an emergency that prevents use of a building in whole or part, for enrollment in special education classes or with parental approval.

To:

11.3 The Committee may determine by a majority vote to assign pre-kindergarten through grade eight (8) pupils to schools in other than their town of residence in case of an emergency that prevents use of a building in whole or in part.

2. By changing the language of Section 11.4 from:

11.4 Parents may request attendance in any of the Member Town schools, subject to approval of the Superintendent.

To:

11.4 Parents/Guardians may request attendance in any of the Member Town schools, subject to approval of the Superintendent or their designee, with the presumption the

parents/guardians will be responsible for transportation of the pupil unless otherwise allowed by the Superintendent or their designee.

3. And by adding a new section 11.5 immediately following Section 11.4 as follows:

11.5 The Superintendent or their designee may assign pre-kindergarten through grade eight (8) pupils to schools in other than their town of residence for enrollment in special education classes, with parent/guardian approval, with transportation provided pursuant to Section 6. The Committee will yearly review special education programming and the choice of schools that host district-wide programs.

or act in anyway thereon.

Article submitted by the Wachusett Regional School District Committee.

Karl Ottmar moved that the Town vote to approve a proposed amendment to the Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, by changing the language of Section 11.3 from its current content to the proposed language for section 11.3 contained in Article 18 of the Town Warrant
AND

by changing the language of Section 11.4 from its current content to the proposed language for section 11.4 contained in Article 18 of the Town Warrant
AND

by adding a new section 11.5 immediately following Section 11.4, with proposed language for section 11.5 contained in Article 18 of the Town Warrant.

The motion was seconded.

Selectboard recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Article 19 – Town Budget To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,512,828 or any other sum, and to further appropriate, from the EMS Receipts Account, the sum of \$310,000 or any other sum, and to further appropriate, from Free Cash the sum of \$689,855 or any other sum, for a total appropriation of \$7,512,683 or any other sum, to defray the necessary and usual expenses of the several departments of the Town for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2022, and especially for any and all the items shown on the attached Budget; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Finance Committee.

Richard Fenton, Chair of the Finance Committee, moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,512,828, and to further appropriate, from the EMS Receipts Account, the sum of \$310,000, and to further appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$689,855, for a total

appropriation of \$7,512,683 to defray the necessary and usual expenses of the several departments of the Town for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2022, excluding schools.

The motion was seconded.

Selectboard recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Richard Fenton moved that the Town appropriate the sum of \$7,512,683 to defray the necessary and usual expenses of the several departments of the Town for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, excluding schools, to be allocated as recommended and itemized in the Town Operating Budget contained in the Warrant.

The motion was seconded.

Selectboard recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Article 20 - WRSD Budget To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,177,576 to pay its assessed share of the Wachusett Regional School District Budget for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2022, and thereby approve the District's budget for said fiscal year; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Wachusett Regional School District Committee.

Karl Ottmar moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,177,576 to pay its assessed share of the Wachusett Regional School District Budget for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2022.

The motion was seconded.

Selectboard recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Article 21 - Bay Path Budget To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$438,277 to pay its assessed share of the Bay Path Regional Technical School Budget for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2022; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational School District.

Robert Wilby, member of the SWCRVSD Committee, moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$438,277 to pay its assessed share of the Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School Budget for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2022.

The motion was seconded.

Selectboard recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

The Moderator announced that there are vacancies on the Finance Committee and requested that registered voters, interested in joining the committee, reach out to him for more information. His contact information is available on the Town website.

A motion was made by Glenn Sullivan and seconded to dissolve the meeting.

The Moderator declared the meeting dissolved at 8:24pm.

Submitted by Laurie Becker, Town Clerk

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie Becker". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.