



**TOWN OF PAXTON  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
JUNE 21, 2021, 6:00PM**

According to the local bylaws for the Town of Paxton, the Annual Town Meeting should have been held on May 3, 2021, which is the first Monday in the month of May. Out of concern for the safety of the residents and officials of the Town of Paxton during the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously on March 22, 2021, to postpone the Annual Town Meeting to June 21, 2021, under the authority of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 39, Section 9. The later date and earlier time were chosen to allow the residents to meet safely outside at Tivnan Field when the temperatures are warmer and there is more daylight.

The meeting was held outdoors at Tivnan Field located at 40 Recreation Drive in Paxton and was called to order at 6:07pm. The Town Moderator, Roger Brunelle, declared that a quorum was present. 68 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.**

**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	\$211,530
Expenses	\$762,310
Debt	<u>\$ 95,915</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.

Travis Thibault, the director of the Department of Public Works, moved that the Town raise and appropriate through Water Department Receipts, water fees or water charges, the following sums to operate the Water Enterprise.

Compensation	\$211,530
Expenses	\$762,310
Debt	<u>\$ 95,915</u>
Total	\$1,069,755

and that \$1,069,755 be raised from Department Revenues.

The motion was seconded by the chair of the Board of Selectmen, Peter Bogren, Jr.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval

Finance Committee recommended approval.

**THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Article 2 - Dump Truck for Department of Public Works** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$231,710, or any other sum to purchase a Freightliner M2 4x4 Dump Truck for the Department of Public Works and trade-in the existing 1997 International Dump Truck; or act in any way thereon.

Article sponsored by the Department of Public Works.

Capital Improvement Committee recommended approval.

Travis Thibault moved that the Town vote to borrow the sum of \$231,710, to purchase a Freightliner M2 4x4 Dump Truck for the Department of Public Works and trade-in the existing 1997 International Dump Truck.

The motion was seconded by Peter Bogren.

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 - Pickup Truck for Water Department** 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 five year "lease to own" agreement for the purpose of acquiring a new

2021 Chevrolet 2500 4x4 Pickup Truck for the Water Department in the amount of \$51,066, with a first year lease payment of \$11,227.17, to be raised and appropriated as part of the Water Enterprise Funds; or act any way thereon.

Article sponsored by the Water Department.  
Capital Improvement Committee recommended approval.

Travis Thibault moved that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 21C of the Massachusetts General Laws to enter into a five year "lease to own" agreement for the purpose of acquiring a new 2021 Chevrolet 2500 4x4 Pickup Truck for the Water Department in the amount of \$51,066, with a first-year lease payment of \$11,227.17, to be raised and appropriated as part of the Water Enterprise Funds.

The motion was seconded by Peter Bogren.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval  
Finance Committee recommended approval.

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

**Article 4 - 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 third year of the existing contract with Suez Advanced Solutions.

The motion was seconded by Peter Bogren.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval  
Finance Committee recommended approval.

**THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.**

**Article 5 - Appropriate funds to Road Improvement** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$113,142 to the Road Improvement Capital Stabilization Fund, or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Board of Selectmen.

Travis Thibault moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$113,142 to the Road Improvement Capital Stabilization Fund.

The motion was seconded by Peter Bogren.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

**THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.**

**Article 6 - Use funds from the Road Improvement** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$113,142 from the Road Improvement Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of resurfacing roads, or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Board of Selectmen.

Travis Thibault moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$113,142 from the Road Improvement Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of resurfacing roads.

The motion was seconded by Peter Bogren.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

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

**Article 7 - 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 Board of Selectmen 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 Peter Bogren.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

**THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.**

**Article 8 - Revolving Accounts** To see if the Town will vote pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44 §53E½ to set the annual expenditure limits for fiscal year 2022 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 Board of Selectmen.

Richard Fenton, chairman of the Finance Committee, moved that the Town vote pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E½, as most recently amended, to set the annual expenditure limits for fiscal year 2022, 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 Peter Bogren.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

**THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.**

**Article 9 - 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.

Richard Fenton 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 Peter Bogren.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

**THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.**

**Article 10 - Gold Star Family – Property Tax Abatement Section 5, Clause 22H** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22H of the Massachusetts General Laws, to provide an exemption from taxes for the real property of the surviving parents or guardian of soldiers and sailors who suffered a fatal injury or who are missing in action with a presumptive finding of death as a result of active duty service as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Veterans Agent.

Jeffrey Kent, the Veterans Agent, moved that the Town vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22H of the Massachusetts General Laws, to provide an exemption from taxes for the real property of the surviving parents or guardian of soldiers and sailors who suffered a fatal injury or who are missing in action with a presumptive finding of death as a result of active-duty service as members of the armed forces of the United States.

The motion was seconded by Richard Fenton.

Board of Selectmen recommended disapproval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

**THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.**

**Article 11 - General Town Budget** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,314,283 or any other sum, and to further appropriate, from the EMS Receipts Account, the sum of \$300,000 or any other sum, and to further appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$619,198 or any other sum, for a total appropriation of \$7,233,481 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, 2021, and especially for any and all of the items shown on the attached Budget; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Finance Committee.

Richard Fenton moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,314,283, and to further appropriate, from the EMS Receipts Account, the sum of \$300,000, and to further appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$619,198, for a total appropriation of \$7,233,481 to defray the necessary and usual expenses of the several departments of the Town for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2021, excluding schools.

The motion was seconded by Peter Bogren.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

**THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.**

Richard Fenton moved that the Town appropriate the sum of \$7,233,481 to defray the necessary and usual expenses of the several departments of the Town for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021, excluding schools, to be allocated as recommended and itemized in the Town Operating Budget contained in the Warrant.

The motion was seconded by Peter Bogren.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

**THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.**

**Article 12 - Wachusett Regional School District Budget** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,156,440 to pay its assessed share of the Wachusett Regional School District Budget for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2021, or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Wachusett Regional School District (WRSD) Committee.

Karl Ottmar, member of the WRSD Committee, moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,156,440 to pay its assessed share of the Wachusett Regional School District Budget for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2021.

The motion was seconded by Peter Bogren.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

**THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.**

**Article 13 - Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School Budget** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$321,509 to pay its assessed share of the Bay Path

Regional Technical School Budget for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2021, or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational (SWCRV) School District Committee.

Robert Wilby, member of the SWCRV School District Committee, moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$321, 509 to pay its assessed share of the Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School Budget for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2021.

The motion was seconded by Peter Bogren.

Board of Selectmen 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 by Peter Bogren to dissolve the meeting. The Moderator declared the meeting dissolved at 6:38pm.

Submitted by Laurie Becker, Town Clerk

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurie Becker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.