



**TOWN OF PAXTON
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2023, 7:00PM**

The meeting was held in the cafeteria at Paxton Center School at 19 West Street and was called to order at 7:20pm. The Town Moderator, Roger Brunelle, declared that a quorum was present. Fifty-five 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 Special 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.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE RULE HAD BEEN ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Julia Pingitore, Chair of the Select Board, came forward to recognize Richard Fenton for his many years of service to the town. Mr. Fenton served on the Finance Committee for 22 years. In addition, he is currently the chair of the Historical Commission. He has previously served on the Town Building Needs, Town Hall Renovation, Open Space and Recreation, Master Plan, and DPW Building Committees. Julia also acknowledged that his service to the town went above and beyond the committees mentioned. He was given a plaque of appreciation and thanked for his dedication to the Town of Paxton.

Article 1 – Water Enterprise – Prior Year Bill

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$21,246.64 from FY24 Water Retained Earnings for the payment of a prior year bill from the City of Worcester Water Department; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Water Commission.

Mark Love, Finance Committee Chair, moved that the Town vote to appropriate \$21,246.64 from FY24 Water Retained Earnings for the payment of a prior year bill from the City of Worcester Water Department.

The motion was seconded by Julia Pingitore.

Select Board recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

This vote requires a 9/10ths majority.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Article 2 – Transfer – Revise Cemetery Commission

To see if the Town will vote to increase the Cemetery Commission FY24 Department Budget, as voted at the June 5, 2023 Annual Town Meeting under Article 15, by transferring \$1,800 from FY24 Free Cash or any available funds; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Cemetery Commission.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON ARTICLE 2.

Article 3 – Transfer – Elections/Registrars

To see if the Town will vote to increase the Elections/Registrars FY24 Department Budget, as voted at the June 5, 2023 Annual Town Meeting under Article 15, by transferring \$6,000 from FY24 Free Cash or any available funds to cover the cost of the State Special Senate Elections; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Town Clerk/Town Administrator.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON ARTICLE 3.

Article 4 – Transfer – Fund Interim Town Administrator

To see if the Town will vote to increase the Town Administrator FY24 Department Budget as voted at the June 5, 2023 Annual Town Meeting under Article 15, by transferring \$15,000 from FY24 Free Cash or any available funds for the compensation of an Interim Town Administrator; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Select Board.

Julia Pingitore moved that the Town vote to increase the Town Administrator FY24 Department Budget as voted at the June 5, 2023, Annual Town Meeting under Article 13, by transferring \$15,000 from FY24 Free Cash for the compensation of an Interim Town Administrator.

The motion was seconded by Carol Riches.

Select Board recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended disapproval of the funding source.

Discussion ensued. Michael Benoit made a motion to move the question. There was a unanimous vote to move the question.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Article 5 – Transfer – Public Safety Generator Repairs

To see if the Town will vote to increase the Public Building FY24 Department Budget, as voted at the June 5, 2023 Annual Town Meeting under Article 15, by transferring \$20,000 from FY24 Free Cash or any available funds to cover the cost of the Public Safety Generator Repairs; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Fire Chief/Town Administrator.

Carol Riches, Select Board member, moved that the Town vote to increase the Public Building FY24 Department Budget, as voted at the June 5, 2023 Annual Town Meeting under Article 13, by transferring \$20,000 from the Capital Depreciation Fund to cover the cost of the Public Safety Generator Repairs.

The motion was seconded by Julia Pingitore.

Select Board recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Article 6 – Transfer – Replacement DPW Mower

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$4,613 from FY24 Free Cash or any available funds to purchase a replacement mower for the Department of Public Works; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Cemetery Commission.

Julia Pingitore moved that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$4,613 from Sale of Cemetery Lots to purchase a replacement mower for the Department of Public Works.

The motion was seconded by Carol Riches.

Select Board recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

Capital Improvements Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Article 7 – Water Enterprise – Water Department Receipts

To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken at the June 5, 2023 Annual Town Meeting under Article 4, 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	\$250,325
Expenses	\$799,198
<u>Debt</u>	<u>\$ 84,970</u>

Total **\$1,134,493**

and that \$1,134,493 is raised as follows:

Departmental receipts **\$1,087,316**

FY24 Water Retained Earnings **\$47,177**

Or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Water Commissioners.

Mark Love moved that the Town vote to amend the vote taken at the June 5, 2023 Annual Town Meeting under Article 3, 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 \$250,325

Expenses \$799,198

Debt \$ 84,970

Total **\$1,134,493**

and that \$1,134,493 is raised as follows:

Departmental receipts **\$1,087,316**

FY24 Water Retained Earnings **\$47,177**

The motion was seconded by Julia Pingitore.

Select Board recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Article 8 – Contract – 5 Years

To see if the Town will vote in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30B, §12(b) to authorize the Town Administrator, as the Chief Procurement Officer, to enter into a postage machine lease with a selected vendor for a period in excess of three years, for a total contract term not to exceed five years; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Town Administrator.

Julia Pingitore moved that the Town vote in accordance with the provisions of Mass. General Laws Chapter 30B, §12(b) to authorize the Town Administrator, as the Chief Procurement Officer, to enter into a postage machine lease with a selected vendor for a period in excess of three years, for a total contract term not to exceed five years.

The motion was seconded by Carol Riches.

Select Board recommended approval.
Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Article 9 – PUBLIC WAY – Olivia Knoll

To see if the Town will vote to accept the layout of Olivia Knoll as a public way in the location depicted on the plan entitled, “Layout Plan of Olivia Knoll, Paxton, MA” dated February 21, 2020, prepared by Jarvis Land Survey, Inc.,” as heretofore laid out by the Select Board and filed with the Town Clerk’s office; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Select Board.

Julia Pingitore moved that the Town vote to accept the layout of Olivia Knoll as a public way in the location depicted on the plan entitled, “Layout Plan of Olivia Knoll, Paxton, MA” dated February 21, 2020, prepared by Jarvis Land Survey, Incorporated,” as heretofore laid out by the Select Board and filed with the Town Clerk’s office.

The motion was seconded by Carol Riches.

Select Board recommended approval.
Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Article 10 – WRSD Agreement – Amend

To see if the Town will vote to approve a proposed amendment to the Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, to modify sections 1.1, 1.7, and 1.8 as attached, or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Wachusett Regional School Committee.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON ARTICLE 10.

Article 11 – Bylaw – Revolving Fund Bylaw

To see if the Town will vote to amend the current Departmental Revolving Funds Bylaw with the revisions as attached, or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Town Administrator

Julia Pingitore moved that the Town vote to amend the current Departmental Revolving Funds Bylaw with the revisions as attached to the warrant for this Special Town Meeting.

The motion was seconded by Carol Riches.

The following is the attachment that was in the warrant:

**Article 11
BYLAW**

Departmental Revolving Funds

Add the following language to the Departmental Revolving Funds, Section 5 (G) as follows:

<u>A</u> Revolving Fund	<u>B</u> Department, Board, Committee, Agency or Officer Authorized to spend from fund	<u>C</u> Fees, Charges or other receipts credited to fund	<u>D</u> Program or activity expenses payable from fund	<u>E</u> Restrictions or conditions on expenses payable from fund	<u>F</u> Other requirement / reports	<u>G</u> Fiscals years
Town Building Rentals/Leases	Town Administrator	Rental/Lease fees for Town Buildings	Property Maintenance costs for rented Town Buildings	None, other than as set forth in 44, § 53E1/2, in this Bylaw, and by Town Meeting vote.	Annual reports	Fiscal Year 2025 and subsequent years

Select Board recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Heather Munroe, Town Administrator, notified residents that the Town of Paxton is currently working on revising the Town's Zoning Bylaws. There will be public information sessions and public hearings where voters are encouraged to come learn about the potential changes and to provide feedback or ask questions. More information regarding this project can be found on the town website www.townofpaxton.net under the Planning Board page.

A motion was made by Julia Pingitore and seconded by Carol Riches to dissolve the meeting. The Moderator declared the meeting dissolved at 7:54pm.

Submitted by Laurie Becker, Town Clerk