

TOWN OF BEDFORD, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
WARRANT FOR A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
To any of the Constables of the Town of Bedford, in the County of Middlesex.

Greetings—

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify the legal voters of said Town of Bedford, qualified to vote at Special Town Meeting for the transaction of Town affairs, to meet in said Town in the **Bedford High School Gymnasium (9 Mudge Way) on Monday, November 14, 2022, at 7:00 PM.**

Then and there to vote upon the following articles:

Article 1
Debate Rules

To determine whether the Town will vote to adopt the following procedure for the current Special Town Meeting:

- A. The main motion having been submitted in advance, and presentations having been made available for viewing before the meeting, presentations will be limited to ten (10) minutes;
- B. No amendment shall be accepted unless submitted in writing. A speaker presenting an amendment to an article shall be limited to five (5) minutes;
- C. Speakers shall be limited to five (5) minutes;
- D. No article shall be presented after 10:30 PM;
- E. Town Meeting by majority vote may waive A, B, C, or D;

pass any vote or take any action relative thereto.

This article proposes time limitations on presentations and debate of articles before this Town Meeting. This article requires simple majority approval.

Recommendations

Select Board: Approval Recommended
Finance Committee: Approval Recommended

Article 2
Community Preservation Surcharge—Effective July 1, 2023

To determine whether the Town will vote to reconfirm a property tax surcharge of three percent (3%) of the taxes assessed annually on real property which shall be dedicated to the Community Preservation Fund, such surcharge to be imposed on taxes assessed for fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2023; pass any vote or take any action relative thereto.

This article would authorize the Town to continue to levy in Fiscal Year 2024 a surcharge of three percent (3%) on property taxes to be used for purposes authorized under the Community Preservation Act, which the Town accepted in 2001. Each year the Town receives matching funds from the Commonwealth, as a result of having accepted this Act. In Fiscal Year 2022 the Town received a total of \$908,721 from Commonwealth distributions. This total match was 49.93% based on \$1,820,007 contributed by Bedford taxpayers in

Fiscal Year 2021. A conservative 20% match is projected for next year because it is not known at this time how much money will be available and how many communities will be participating in the program.

Both municipal and Commonwealth funds are to be used exclusively for affordable housing, open space preservation, historic preservation, and recreation. Under the Act, municipalities are required to spend or reserve for future expenditure at least ten percent (10%) of the fund for each of the first three above purposes. The property tax surcharge may be any percentage up to three percent (3%). The Select Board is placing this article on the Warrant of this Special Town Meeting in keeping with a commitment made at the time the Community Preservation Act was accepted. If Town Meeting were to adopt any percentage other than the current three percent (3%) in effect, this change would also need approval of Bedford’s registered voters at the Annual Town Election in March 2023. This article requires simple majority approval.

Recommendations

Select Board: Approval Recommended
 Finance Committee: Approval Recommended
 Community Preservation Committee: Approval Recommended

Article 3
Supplemental FY2023 Community Preservation Budget

To determine whether the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$164,595, or any other sum, to act upon the recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee by appropriating the following amounts to supplement previously appropriated funds for Fiscal Year 2023 Community Preservation purposes, with each item considered a separate appropriation; and to determine whether such sums shall be appropriated from Fiscal Year 2023 Community Preservation Fund Revenues or the current Community Preservation Fund Balance or Reserves, or by any combination of these methods:

SUPPLEMENTAL FY2023 APPROPRIATIONS

Funds

1	Conservation of Early Town Record Books	\$ 14,595
2	John Glenn Middle School Tennis Court/Pickleball Court Lights	\$ 150,000
TOTAL		\$ 164,595

or pass any vote or take any action relative thereto.

This article proposes to supplement prior appropriations to the Fiscal Year 2023 Community Preservation Budget adopted at the 2022 and 2021 Annual Town Meetings. The amount that was appropriated at the 2022 ATM for “Conservation of Early Town Record Books” was an estimate based on the cost of the project that was anticipated to be partially funded through a preservation grant. The Town of Bedford did not receive this grant, and therefore is requesting supplemental funds in order to move forward with completing this project. The amount that was appropriated at the 2021 ATM for “John Glenn Middle School Tennis Court/Pickleball Court Lights” was an estimate based on pre-pandemic construction, electrical, and equipment costs. The supplemental funding will make it possible for this project to be completed. This article requires simple majority approval.

Recommendations

Select Board: Approval Recommended
 Finance Committee: Approval Recommended
 Community Preservation Committee: Approval Recommended

Article 4

Petitioners' Article—Fire Station Project Design Appropriation Change

To see if the Town will vote to revoke a portion of the appropriation for Fire Station Project Design work as voted pursuant to the motion on Article 9 of the 2022 Annual Town Meeting, such that no further expenditure of funds for such purpose may be made except as necessary under contract for services rendered up to and including the date of this vote; pass any vote or take any action relative thereto.

This article would prohibit expenditures for design work for a new fire station at 139 The Great Road. This article requires simple majority approval.

Recommendations

Select Board: Approval Not Recommended
Finance Committee: No Recommendation

Article 5

Petitioners' Article—Establish Fire Station Site Location Committee

To see if the Town will vote to create a Committee, consisting of five registered voters of the Town, appointed by the Moderator, none of whom serve on any other town boards or committees or in any town offices or positions, with instructions to (1) hold no fewer than two public hearings at which the public may suggest sites for the location of a new Town Fire Station and submit information in support thereof; and (2) prepare a report to the 2023 Annual Town Meeting which shall be published on the Town website no less than 30 days before Town Meeting and distributed to all the Town's registered voters a minimum of seven days before that Town Meeting, and which contains a detailed review of each site suggested at the public hearings, the advantages and disadvantages of each, and the Committee's recommendations for siting the Fire Station at each such site; pass any vote or take any action relative thereto.

This article would create a Town Meeting Committee to suggest sites for the location of a new fire station, and to report its findings and recommendations to the 2023 March Annual Town Meeting. This article requires simple majority approval.

Recommendations

Select Board: Approval Not Recommended
Finance Committee: No Recommendation

Article 6

**Appropriate Funds for the Bedford Permanent Firefighters Local 2310 IAFF
Collective Bargaining Agreement—FY2023–FY2025**

To determine whether the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money to fund the collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Bedford and the Bedford Permanent Firefighters Local 2310 for Fire Department employees who are members of this collective bargaining unit. Said amount is to be funded by transferring the previously appropriated at 2022 Annual Town Meeting “Fund 1220—Select Board: Reserve” to “Fund 2200: Fire Department—Salaries”; pass any vote or take any action relative thereto.

This article would provide additional funds required to compensate members of the Fire Department union IAFF—Local 2310 for services rendered during Fiscal Years 2023–2025 as a result of a Collective Bargaining Agreement commencing July 1, 2022, for a three-year term. This article requires simple majority approval.

Recommendations

Select Board: Recommendation to be given at Special Town Meeting
Finance Committee: Recommendation to be given at Special Town Meeting

Article 7

**Appropriate Funds for the American Federation of State, County
and Municipal Employees AFL-CIO, State Council 93, Local 1730
Collective Bargaining Agreement—FY2023—FY2025**

To determine whether the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money to fund the collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Bedford and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees AFL-CIO, State Council 93, Local 1703, commencing July 1, 2022, for Public Works employees who are members of this collective bargaining unit. Said amount is to be funded by transferring the previously appropriated at 2022 Annual Town Meeting “Fund 1220—Select Board: Reserve” to “Fund 4000: Department of Public Works”; pass any vote or take any action relative thereto.

This article would provide additional funds required to compensate members of the Public Works Department union, AFL-CIO—Local 1730 for services rendered during Fiscal Years 2023–2025 as a result of a Collective Bargaining Agreement commencing July 1, 2022, for a three-year term. This article requires simple majority approval.

Recommendations

Select Board: Recommendation to be given at Special Town Meeting
Finance Committee: Recommendation to be given at Special Town Meeting

Article 8

Appropriate Funds for Minuteman High School Assessment—FY2023

To determine whether the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to be determined to amend the Fiscal Year 2023 appropriation “Fund 3001—Vocational Education,” under Article 17 of the March 28, 2022, Annual Town Meeting, to a sum of \$33,143; pass any vote or take any action relative thereto.

This article would increase the payment Bedford makes to support the Minuteman High School. The assessment increase is due to the unanticipated enrollment of one additional student from Bedford. This article requires simple majority approval.

Recommendations

Select Board: Approval Recommended
Finance Committee: Approval Recommended

Article 9

Home Rule Petition—Legal Notice Media Requirements

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the Massachusetts General Court to enact legislation in substantially the form below, and further to authorize the Select Board to approve amendments to said legislation before its enactment by the General Court that are within the scope of the general objectives of this motion; pass any vote or take any action relative thereto.

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF BEDFORD TO ADOPT ALTERNATIVE METHODS FOR NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS.

Be it enacted as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding chapter 40A, section 11 of the General Laws, the Town of Bedford is hereby authorized to adopt and further amend general bylaws that restrict the publishing of legal notices on the Town’s website.

SECTION 2. The Town may permit that all legal notices of such public hearings be published: (i) in a local newspaper, either in electronic or paper format; (ii) on the bulletin board outside the Town Clerk’s office; and (iii) on the Town’s website.

SECTION 3. As used in this Act, the term “website” shall mean the official website of the Town of Bedford that is operated and maintained by the Town’s government.

SECTION 4. If any provision or section of this act is invalidated, the remainder shall survive in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

This article authorizes the Select Board to submit a home rule petition to eliminate the Massachusetts General Law requirement to post legal notices in the local printed newspaper. With the Bedford Minuteman ceasing print operations, the Town now is required to post notices in the Lowell Sun, costing significantly more than the previous cost of legal advertisements. Additionally, many Bedford residents do not subscribe to the Lowell Sun, which limits the audience that can review legal advertisements. This home rule petition would allow advertisement of legal notices on the Town website or other local online news publications. This article requires 2/3rds majority approval.

Recommendations

Select Board:	Approval Recommended
Finance Committee:	Approval Recommended

Article 10
Minuteman Bikeway Extension

To determine whether the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to acquire by gift, purchase, or eminent domain, any interest in real property for purposes of establishing, constructing, operating, and maintaining a multi-use rail trail/recreational path and for all other purposes for which rail trails are now or hereafter may be used in the Commonwealth, known as the Minuteman Bikeway Extension Transportation Improvement Project as shown on a plan entitled “Plan of Land in the Town of Bedford, Massachusetts, Middlesex County, Showing the Locations of Takings and Easements for the Purpose of Constructing the Minuteman Bikeway Extension” dated February 14, 2022, prepared by VHB and a copy of which is filed in the Office of the Town Clerk, including abutting and underlying properties as necessary for clearing title for any interests in the railroad right-of-way, laying out a recreational path in that right-of-way, and providing access to the rail trail area for construction, maintenance, and repair purposes, on such terms and conditions as the Select Board may determine; and to determine whether the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide a sum of money for this purpose and related engineering costs; pass any vote, or take any action relative thereto.

This article authorizes the Select Board to acquire necessary and appropriate real property interests related to the Minuteman Bikeway Extension Transportation Improvement Project. The Minuteman Bikeway is a multi-use path for non-motorized transportation from Bedford to Cambridge. This article requires 2/3rds majority approval.

Recommendations

Select Board:	Approval Recommended
Finance Committee:	No Recommendation

and you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof at the Town Hall and in at least three (3) other public places in the Town at least fourteen (14) days before the time of said meeting.

Hereof fail not and make return of this Warrant with your doings thereof at the time and place of said meeting. Given under our hands on this 26th day of September in the year Two Thousand Twenty-Two.

SELECT BOARD OF BEDFORD

EMILY J. MITCHELL, CHAIR

BOPHA T. MALONE

SHAWN HANEGAN

MARGOT R. FLEISCHMAN

EDWARD M. PIERCE

Guidelines for Civil Discourse

The Town of Bedford respects and recognizes each citizen’s right to free speech. In order to guarantee all people’s right to free speech and to ensure productive civil discourse, we request that all citizens respect the following guidelines.

Show respect for others.

- Discuss policies and ideas, not people.
- Only one person should be speaking at any given time.
- Use helpful, not hurtful language.

Speak as you would like to be spoken to.

- Use courtesy titles (Mr., Ms., Sir, etc.) and ask if unsure.
- Restate ideas when asked.
- Use a civil tone of voice.

Agree to listen.

- Respectfully hear and listen to differing points of view.
- When unsure, clarify what you heard.
- Realize that what you say and what people understand you to have said may be different.
- Recognize that people can agree to disagree.

Speak for yourself, not others.

- Speak from your own experience.
- Use “I” statements (“I think that the ideas presented . . .”).

Follow agreed-upon guidelines regarding who speaks when and for how long.

Volunteers Needed to Serve on Town Committees

If you are thinking about helping your Town, now or in the future, the Volunteer Coordinating Committee encourages you to attend a meeting of the committee that you are interested in, then fill out and submit a questionnaire/application form. For information on committees and openings, as well as a link to the volunteer questionnaire and list of Volunteer Coordinating Committee members, please visit:

bedfordma.gov/vcc.

For backup material and logistical information about Special Town Meeting, please visit bedfordma.gov/town-meeting

**Town of Bedford
Massachusetts 01730**

**Presorted Standard Mail
Postage Paid
Permit No. 42
Burlington, MA 01730**

**Residential Postal Customer
Bedford, MA 01730**

**Special Town Meeting
Monday, November 14, 2022
7:00 P.M.
Bedford High School Gymnasium
9 Mudge Way
Open to All Registered Voters**