

Warrant for the 2024 Annual Town Meeting (FY2025)
Town of Phillipston
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
May 8, 2024

Worcester, ss.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Phillipston, Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the said Town who are qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the Phillipston Memorial Building, 20 The Common, Phillipston, Massachusetts on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. to act on the following articles:

Customary Articles

ARTICLE 1:

To choose all necessary Town Officers, Boards and Committees for the ensuing year, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 2:

To receive and hear the reports of the Town Officers, Boards and Committees for the Fiscal Year 2023, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 3:

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to G.L. c.268A, §21A, to approve the appointment of a member of the Board of Selectmen, Board of Health, Board of Cemetery Commissioners, Board of Assessors, Finance Committee, Historical Commission, Agricultural Commission, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Conservation Commission as Clerk for their respective Boards, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 4:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, receive and expend any grants which do not require further appropriation of funds by the Town, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 5:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow in anticipation of revenue for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2024 in accordance with G.L. c.44, §4, and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with the G.L. c.44, §17, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 6:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow in anticipation of Highway reimbursement funds allotted by Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division for the Fiscal Year 2025 in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c.44, §6A, and Acts in amendment thereof, for a period of not more than two years from their dates of issue, or act in relation thereto.

Operating Budget Articles

ARTICLE 7:

To see if the Town will set the salary and compensation of all elective Town Officers as provided by G.L. c.41, §108, and raise and appropriate the amount of \$137,538 therefor, or act in relation thereto.

Board/Commission/ Position	FY24 as Voted	FY25 Proposed
Assessors	5,089	\$5,216
Board of Health	4,023	\$4,124
Board of Selectmen	10,084	\$10,336
Cemetery Commission	1,057	\$1,084
Constable	788	\$808
Moderator	396	\$406
Planning Board	7,235	\$7,416
Tax Collector	41,956	\$43,005
Town Clerk	63,554	\$65,143
Article Grand Total	134,182	\$137,538

ARTICLE 8:

To raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide such sums of money as may be deemed necessary to pay the Town charges for the twelve-month period commencing July 1, 2024, and further that appointing authorities shall set salaries for personnel within the amounts appropriated hereunder in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c.41, §108, or act in relation thereto.

General Government		
Board of Assessors	FY24	FY25
Payroll	25,000	28,100
Certification Stipend	-	1,000
Expenses	14,000	17,000
Board of Selectmen		
Administrative Assistant Payroll	88,842	91,063
Department Assistant	20,800	21,320
Buildings and Groundskeeper	35,000	35,000
Expenses	228,250	233,750
ADA	-	500
Workers Compensation	30,672	35,000
IT	25,000	36,684
VADAR	12,884	15,000
Queen Lake Payroll	1,948	1,997
Queen Lake Expense	2,100	2,152
Capital Improvement Planning Committee		
Expense	50	50
Moderator		
Expense	50	50

Finance Committee		
Clerk Payroll	848	869
Expense	300	300
Reserve Fund	75,000	75,000
Town Accountant		
Payroll	48,000	50,000
Expense	1,000	1,000
Town Clerk		
Assistant Town Clerk Payroll	4,282	4,390
Certification Stipend		1,000
Expense	4,622	4,622
Election	5,200	6,900
Voter Registration	250	250
Treasurer		
Treasurer/HR Salary	30,603	31,369
Certification Stipend	-	1,000
Assistant Treasurer Payroll	3,850	4,000
Expense	7,000	8,000
Tax Title Expenses	20,000	20,000
Group Health/Life	215,809	228,196
SS / Medicare	20,000	20,000
Unemployment Comp.	11,000	11,000
Worcester Reg. Retirement	163,953	180,877
Highway Garage Debt	36,459	35,719
Tax Collector		
Assistant Tax Collector Payroll	7,375	7,560
Certification Stipend	-	1,000
Expense	7,300	7,300
Tax Title	8,000	8,000
Public Safety		
Dispatch Services		
Expense	77,362	50,000
Emergency Management		
Payroll	6,327	6,486
Expense	10,000	10,000
Fire Department		
Fire Chief Salary	38,776	39,746
Administrative Assistant	-	-
Payroll	221,579	227,118
Expense	69,142	70,870
Police Department		
Police Chief Salary	84,822	86,944
Chief "On Duty" Holidays	3,263	3,344
Payroll	276,553	272,929

Administrative Assistant	0	7,307
Expenses	120,160	105,060
Public Health and Regulation		
Animal Control		
Payroll	5,378	5,512
Expense	1,905	1,905
Board of Health		
Board of Health Payroll	35,240	36,121
Expenses	43,656	43,656
Building Department		
Payroll Inspector	18,000	18,000
Payroll Clerk	4,320	4,320
Expense	3,420	3,420
Inspector of Barns & Animals		
Payroll	832	853
Expense	100	100
Zoning Board of Appeals		
Clerk Payroll	849	870
Expenses	120	120
Conservation Commission		
Clerk Payroll	883	905
Expense	2,500	2,500
Planning Board		
Clerk salary	5,389	5,551
Secretary Payroll / Hourly	1,575	1,622
Expense	3,280	3,378
Consultant	26,266	27,054
Public Facilities		
Agricultural Commission		
Clerk Payroll	403	413
Expense	1,539	1,539
Highway		
Payroll	200,016	205,016
Expense	64,700	64,700
Snow & Ice	70,000	70,000
Phillipston Memorial Building		
Custodian Payroll	10,000	16,913
Expenses/Maintenance	50,000	50,000
Cemetery Commission		
Payroll	16,575	16,989
Expense	5,679	5,679
Tree Warden		
Payroll	1,892	1,940
Expense	12,000	12,000

Culture and Recreation		
Library		
Payroll	16,393	16,393
Expense	6,777	7,353
Circulation Materials (state)	5,794	5,937
Recreation		
Expense	5,000	5,000
Historical Commission		
Clerk Salary	51	151
Expense	50	125
Community Services		
Council on Aging		
Expense	500	500
Veterans Services		
Administration	5,517	5,624
Direct Benefits	10,000	10,000
Total	2,700,030	2,758,981

ARTICLE 9:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Cemetery Commissioners to utilize members of said Commission for work in the cemeteries and set their compensation according to the Town of Phillipston wage plan, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 10:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Health to utilize members of said Board for work at the Transfer Station and set their compensation according to the Town of Phillipston wage plan, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 11:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the following Revolving accounts under G.L. c.44, §53E1/2 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, or act in relation thereto.

Program or Purpose	Spending Limit
Animal Control Revolving Fees	\$3,000
BOH Agent Revolving Fees	\$12,000
BOH Revolving Recycle	\$12,000
Gas Inspector Revolving Fees	\$4,000
Wiring Inspector Revolving Fees	\$9,000
Plumbing Inspector Revolving Fees	\$7,000

Fire Dept. Revolving Burning Permit Fees	\$2,000
Zoning Board of Appeals Revolving Fees	\$4,000
Planning Board Revolving Fees	\$8,000
Highway Dept. Scrap Metal	\$3,000
Cemetery Commission Burial	\$7,000
Commercial Solar Array	\$60,000

ARTICLE 12:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide the sum of \$2,059,793 to pay its share of the Narragansett Regional School District budget for FY25, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 13:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide the sum of \$255,452 to pay its share of the Montachusett Regional Vocation Technical School budget for FY25, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 14:

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$60,000 from the Ambulance -- Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account to fund the operation of the Fire Department Ambulance for the FY25 budget year; any remaining funds will be retained in the Ambulance - Receipts Reserved for Appropriation to be appropriated in future years; or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 15:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide the sum of \$20,000 for the Assessors' Property Revaluation Expense Account, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 16:

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c.59, §57A, which provides that a notice of preliminary tax or actual tax bill for real estate or personal property taxes in an amount of \$100.00 or less shall be due and payable in a single installment, beginning in fiscal year 2025, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 17:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide \$5,000 for the control of invasive/nuisance plant species at Queen Lake, including all incidental or related expenses, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 18:

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c.64G, §3A, which authorizes the Town to impose a local excise tax on bed and breakfast establishments, hotels, lodging houses, short-term rentals or motels and to establish said excise tax at a rate of 6% of the total amount of rent for each such occupancy, effective as of July 1, 2024, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 19:

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c.64L, §2, which authorizes the Town to impose a local sales tax upon the sale of restaurant meals at a rate of .75% of the gross receipts of the vendor from the sale of restaurant meals, effective as of July 1, 2024, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 20:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Collector to charge a fee of \$20.00 for each written demand issued by the Tax Collector, which shall be added to and collected as part of the tax, as authorized by G.L. c.60, §15, effective as of July 1, 2024, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 21

To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$33,471.45 from the appropriation approved under Article 27 POST Bridge Training at the June 2, 2021 Annual Town Meeting to the general fund, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 22

To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$12,212 from the appropriation approved under Article 18 Fire Station Repairs at the June 2, 2021 Annual Town Meeting to the general fund, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 23:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$4,065.61 to pay the following prior year bills, or act in relation thereto:

Vendor	Amount	Invoice Date
OTIS	\$2,168.88	12/1/2022
OTIS	\$1,896.73	3/1/2023

ARTICLE 24:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide the sum of \$10,000 for Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MART) services, including all incidental or related expenses, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 25:

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c.44, §54(b) to allow Town trust funds to be invested in accordance with G.L. c.203C, the so-called "Prudent Investment Rule", or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 26:

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c.32B, §9A, which would require that the Town pay for one-half (50%) of the premium costs payable by a retired employee for group general or blanket hospital, surgical, medical, or other health insurance, or act in relation thereto.

Capital Investment Articles

ARTICLE 27:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$215,000 to the Capital Investment Fund, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 28:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$165,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund, to purchase and equip an excavator, with attachments, for the Highway Department, including all incidental and related costs, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 29:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$360,000 from the Capital Investment Fund, and authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow the sum of \$430,000 in accordance with G.L. c.44, §§7 or 8, or any other enabling authority, for a total appropriation of \$790,000, to purchase and equip a new fire truck for the Fire Department, including all incidental or related costs, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 30:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$106,983 to the Stabilization Fund, or act in relation thereto.

Community Preservation Articles

ARTICLE 31:

To see if the Town will vote to hear and act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2025 Community Preservation Budget and to appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation annual revenues the amounts recommended below by the Community Preservation Committee to be expended for the purposes of committee administrative expenses, community preservation projects and other expenses in FY2025, with each line being considered a separate appropriation, or act in relation thereto.

Reserves:

From FY2025 estimated annual revenues for Historic Resources Reserve.....	\$15,700
From FY2025 estimated annual revenues for Community Housing Reserve.....	\$15,700
From FY2025 estimated annual revenues for Open Space Reserve.....	\$15,700
From FY2025 estimated annual revenues for Budgeted Reserve.....	\$109,300

Appropriations:

From FY2025 estimated annual revenues for Committee administrative expenses.....	\$5,000
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ARTICLE 32:

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to G.L. c.44B, to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$5,625 from the Community Preservation Open Space Reserve for the purchase and installation of a shed at the Phillipston Community Garden to store equipment used at the garden, including all incidental or related costs, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 33:

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to G.L. c.44B, to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$47,900 from the Community Preservation Historic Resources Reserve Fund to repair an area of floor in the historic Phillips Free Public Library, including all incidental or related costs, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 34:

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to G.L. c.44B, to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$15,000 from the Community Preservation Open Space Reserve Fund and \$15,000 from the Community Preservation Historic Resources Reserve Fund to design a Revitalized Common, including all incidental or related costs, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 35

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to G.L. c.44B, to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$30,000 from the Community Preservation Historic Reserve Fund for the restoration of 12 windows on the east side of the

Congregational Church of Phillipston, including all incidental or related costs, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen, in consultation with the Community Preservation Committee, to enter into a Grant Agreement with the Phillipston Congregational Church setting the terms for such grant, including a requirement that the Phillipston Congregational Church grant to the Town an Historic Preservation Restriction in connection with the windows, and further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept said restriction; provided further that if the grant is successfully challenged, any funds granted to the Phillipston Congregational Church shall be returned to the Town forthwith, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 36:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the remaining balance of \$5,000.00 from account line item, 2460-000-5713-0000, 2016 ATM Wheelchair Lift, to the Community Preservation Historical Resources Reserve Fund, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 37:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the remaining balance of \$4,598.12 from account line item, 2460-000-5702-0000, 2015 ATM Community Park, to the Community Preservation Open Space Reserve Fund, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 38:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the remaining balance of \$10,000.00 from account line item, 2460-000-5717-0000, 2018 ATM Town Park, to the Community Preservation Open Space Reserve Fund, and the remaining balance of \$40,000.00 from account line item, 2460-000-5717-0001, 2018 ATM Town Park, to the Community Preservation Budgeted Reserve Fund, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 39:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the remaining balance of \$12,000.00 from account line item, 2460-000-5720-0000, 2019 ATM Town Hall Painting, to the Community Preservation Historical Resources Reserve Fund, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 40:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the remaining balance of \$1,922.57 from account line item, 2460-000-5722-2021, 2021 ATM Art 34 Outdoor Pavilion Town Park, to the Community Preservation Open Space Reserve Fund, or act in relation thereto.

Bylaw Articles

ARTICLE 41:


To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Phillipston Town Bylaws by inserting the language shown in bold and deleting the language shown in strike-through as set forth in Appendix A, or act in relation thereto.


Posting Attestation

And you are to serve this Warrant by posting the three attested copies thereof, one at the Town Hall, one at the Public Library, and one at the King Phillip Restaurant, seven days at least before the time of holding said meeting. Hereof fail not and make due return of this Warrant with your doing thereon to the Town Clerk at the time and place of said meeting.

Given under our hands and seals this 18th day of April 2024.

Phillipston Board of Selectmen:


Bernard Malouin


Gerhard Fandreyer Vacant

I hereby certify that I have posted three attested copies of this Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting as directed above seven days at least before the time of holding said meeting.


, Constable

4-18-24, 2024
(month and day)

Attachments

Appendix A: Town of Phillipston Town Bylaws

911236/PHIL/0001