

Warrant for the 2024 Annual Town Meeting (FY2024)
Town of Phillipston
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
May 3, 2023

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 School, 20 The Common, Phillipston, Massachusetts on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, 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 2022, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 3:

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Chapter 268A, Section 21A of the General Laws, 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, 2023 in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 4 of the General Laws and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with the Chapter 44, Section 17 of the General Laws, 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 2024 in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 6A of the General Laws, 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 Chapter 41, Section 108 of the General Laws, and raise and appropriate the amount of \$134,182 therefor, or act in relation thereto.

Board or Position	FY23 as Voted	FY24 Proposed
Assessors	4,965	5,089
Board of Health	3,925	4,023
Cemetery Commission	1,032	1,057
Constable	769	788
Moderator	386	396
Planning Board	7,058	7,235
Board of Selectmen	9,838	10,084
Tax Collector	31,667	41,956
Town Clerk	53,165	63,554
ARTICLE GRAND TOTAL	112,805	134,182

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, 2023, 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.

Board, Committee or Department	FY23 as Voted	FY24 Proposed
Board of Assessors		
Payroll	19,300	25,000
Expenses	13,500	14,000
Board of Selectmen		
Administrative Assistant Payroll	86,675	88,842
Board of Selectmen's Office Assistant Payroll	20,800	20,800
Buildings and Groundskeeper	0	35,000
Expenses	227,238	228,250
Queen Lake Payroll	1,947	1,948
Queen Lake Expense	2,100	2,100
Capital Improvement Planning Committee		
Expense	50	50
Moderator		
Expense	50	50
Finance Committee		
Clerk Payroll	848	848
Expense	300	300
Reserve Fund	42,409	75,000
Town Accountant		
Payroll	45,000	48,000
Expense	2,000	1,000
Town Clerk		
Assistant Town Clerk Payroll	4,198	4,282
Expense	4,622	4,622

Board, Committee or Department	FY23 as Voted	FY24 Proposed
Election & Regis	5,200	5,200
Voter Registration	250	250
Treasurer		
Treasurer/HR Salary	26,400	30,603
Assistant Treasurer Payroll	3,850	3,850
Expense	7,000	7,000
Tax Title Expenses	20,000	20,000
Group Health/Life	179,523	215,809
SS / Medicare	15,798	20,000
Unemployment Comp.	11,810	11,000
Worcester Reg. Retirement	164,088	163,953
Highway Garage Debt	37,199	36,459
QL Dam Debt	109,180	0
Workers Compensation	55,762	30,672
IT	0	25,000
VADAR	14,414	12,884
Tax Collector		
Assistant Tax Collector Payroll	7,375	7,559
Expense	7,300	7,300
Tax Title	0	8,000
Dispatch Services		
Expense	70,000	77,362
Emergency Management		
Payroll	6,173	6,327
Expense	10,000	10,000
Fire Department		
Fire Chief Salary	37,939	38,776
Fire Clerk Payroll	0	0
Fire/Rescue Payroll	196,579	221,579
Fire/rescue Expense	69,142	69,142
Police Department		
Police Chief Salary	81,959	84,822
Chief "On Duty" Holidays	0	3,263
Payroll	246,715	276,553
Expenses	120,160	120,160
Animal Control		
Payroll	5,247	5,378
Expense	1,905	1,905
Board of Health		
Board of Health Payroll	34,380	35,240
Expenses	43,653	43,656
Building Department		
Payroll Inspector	16,500	18,000

Board, Committee or Department	FY23 as Voted	FY24 Proposed
Payroll Clerk	3,960	4,320
Expense	3,420	3,420
Inspector of Barns & Animals		
Payroll	812	832
Expense	100	100
Board of Appeals		
Clerk Payroll	849	849
Expenses	120	120
Conservation Commission		
Clerk Payroll	883	883
Expense	2,500	2,500
Planning Board		
Secretary Payroll / Hourly	5,258	5,389
Elected Clerk salary	1,537	1,575
Expense	3,280	3,280
Consultant	25,625	26,266
Agricultural Commission		
Clerk Payroll	393	403
Expense	1,539	1,539
Highway		
Payroll	189,024	200,016
Expense	64,700	64,700
Snow & Ice	50,000	70,000
PMS Building / Use Committee		
Clerk Payroll	787	787
Expenses	200	200
PMS		
Janitor Payroll	16,500	10,000
Expenses/Maintenance	50,000	50,000
Cemetery Commission		
Payroll	16,170	16,575
Expense	5,540	5,679
Tree Warden		
Payroll	1,845	1,892
Expense	12,000	12,000
Library		
Payroll	16,537	16,393
Expense	6,263	6,777
Circulation Materials (state)	5,700	5,794
Recreation		
Expense	5,358	5,000
Historical Commission		
Clerk Salary	51	51
Expense	50	50

Board, Committee or Department	FY23 as Voted	FY24 Proposed
Council on Aging		
Expense	500	500
Veterans Services		
Administration	5,488	5,517
Direct Benefits	10,000	10,000
ARTICLE GRAND TOTAL	2,583,527	2,701,201

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 raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide the sum of \$1,858,810 to pay its share of the Narragansett Regional School District budget for FY24, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 12:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide the sum of \$237,334 to pay its share of the Montachusett Regional Vocation Technical School budget for FY24, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 13:

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 FY24 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 14:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide the sum of \$22,000 for the Assessors' Property Revaluation Expense Account, 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 \$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 16:

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 54 and establish a minimum value of personal property subject to taxation in the amount of \$8,000 of fair cash value on personal property accounts to be taxed, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 17:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell or convey any or all property acquired by Tax Taking in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c.60, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 18:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide \$40,000 to purchase new turnout gear for the Fire Department, including all incidental or related costs, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 19:

To see if the Town will vote to accept Chapter 59, Section 21A and Chapter 41, Sections 19K and 108P of the Massachusetts General Laws, which provide authorization for the payment of \$1,000.00 annual stipends to Assessors, Town Clerks, Tax Collectors and Town Treasurers, respectively, who have succeeded in obtaining and maintaining state certification in their professions; and further, to transfer the sum of \$4,000.00 from Free Cash to fund said stipends, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 20:

To see if the Town will vote to rescind a total of \$296,278.41 for the following Authorized and Unissued Debt for projects that are completed and do not need additional funding:

Purpose	Date of Vote	Article Number	Amount Authorized	Issued	Unissued
Turn-out Gear	05/06/2015	28	165,000	99,640	65,360
Queen Lake Dam	05/03/2017	10	350,000	320,000	30,000
Memorial School Boiler	02/02/2011	1	143,246	57,527.59	85,718.41
Houghton Land Acquisition	11/19/2011	1	180,000	64,800	115,200

, or act in relation thereto.

Other Articles

ARTICLE 21:

To see if the Town will vote to initiate the process to aggregate the electrical load of interested electricity consumers in Town pursuant to M.G.L. c.164, §134 and, further, to adopt the following resolution, or act in relation thereto:

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has engaged in a process to establish a competitive marketplace through the restructuring of the electricity market; and

WHEREAS, citizens of Phillipston have a substantial economic and social interest in terms of greater customer choice and opportunities for savings in this restructured market; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Phillipston hereby finds that it may be in the interest of its citizens who are electric ratepayers, both residential and commercial/industrial, to develop and secure such approvals and enter into appropriate agreements with consultants, experts and attorneys in connection with the establishment and operation of an electricity aggregation plan.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Town of Phillipston hereby:

Publicly declares its intent to become and aggregator of electric power on behalf of its residential and business electric customers and to reestablish such plan if its operation is suspended; and

To negotiate and enter into such contracts for power supply pursuant to the plan or services for such plan, with the understanding that if a power supply contract is executed, individual customers would retain the option not to participate in the aggregation plan and, instead, to choose any electricity alternatives they desire and, further, to take such action relative hereto as may be appropriate and necessary.

Capital Investment Articles

ARTICLE 22:

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$450,000 to the Capital Investment Fund, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 23:

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$212,403 to the Stabilization Fund, or act in relation thereto.

Community Preservation Articles

ARTICLE 24:

To see if the Town will vote to hear and act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2024 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 FY2024, with each line being considered a separate appropriation, or act in relation thereto.

Reserves:

From FY2024 estimated annual revenues for Historic Resources Reserve.....	\$13,650 (10%)
From FY2024 estimated annual revenues for Community Housing Reserve.....	\$13,650 (10%)
From FY2024 estimated annual revenues for Open Space Reserve.....	\$13,650 (10%)
From FY2024 estimated annual revenues for Budgeted Reserve.....	\$94,950 (10%)

Appropriations:

From FY2024 estimated annual revenues for Committee administrative expenses.....	\$500
--	-------

Bylaw Articles

ARTICLE 25:

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Phillipston Town Bylaws by adding the following Section 5 to Article III, Town Officers, or act in relation thereto.

Section 5: Town Officers' Fees

Pursuant to MGL c.40, §21(13), all Town officers shall pay all fees received by them by virtue of their office into the Town Treasury. Notwithstanding the above, the Animal Control Officer, as outlined in Appendix B, Section 5, shall retain all fees paid to him for the care of impounded dogs by the owners thereof, with only the \$50.00 fine paid into the Town Treasury. Said fees will be published each year in the Annual Town Report in accordance with this Section.

ARTICLE 26:

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Phillipston Town Bylaws by changing the title of Article XVIII, Denial or Revocation of Local or Permit for Nonpayment of Local Taxes, Fees or Other Charges, to "Delinquent Taxes, Fees or Other Charges," or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 27:

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Phillipston Town Bylaws by changing the fine amount set forth in Article VIII, Section 3 from \$50 to \$100, or act in relation thereto.

Town of Phillipston Bylaws

Article VIII

Current:

Section 3. No person shall throw, or put, or cause to be thrown or put, any snow, or ice or any other debris from any privately owned property into any Public Way. Whoever violates this By-Law shall be punished by a fine of fifty (\$50) dollars for each offense.

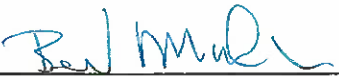
Change to:

Section 3. No person shall throw, or put, or cause to be thrown or put, any snow, or ice or any other debris from any privately owned property into any Public Way. Whoever violates this By-Law shall be punished by a fine of one hundred (\$100) dollars for each offense.

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 19th day of April 2023.


Phillipston Board of Selectmen:


Bernard Malouin


Gerhard Fandreyer


Daniel Sanden

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

4-20-23, 2023
(month and day)