

TOWN OF WEST NEWBURY

James RW Blatchford
Town Clerk

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West Newbury, MA 01985
978-363-1100 ext. 110
Townclerk@wnewbury.org

May 18, 2022

Mr. Angus Jennings, Town Manager
Town of West Newbury
381 Main Street
West Newbury, MA 01985

Dear Mr. Jennings,

The following is a report of expenditures voted at the Annual Town Meeting which convened on May 14, 2022 and adjourned the same date, together with other votes affecting the finances of the Town.

Pursuant to the Warrant issued by the Select Board on April 25, 2022, which was posted on April 26, 2022 according to law by Constable Brian Richard, who made proper return of his doings thereon, the Annual Town Meeting was to be held on May 14, 2022, outdoors in the bandstand and parking lot located behind the Town Annex, 379 Main Street, West Newbury, MA. The meeting was called to order at 9:06 A.M. by the Moderator Kathleen C. Swallow, upon report of the Board of Registrars a quorum of 90 or more registered voters. A total of 226 voters were in attendance. The Town Clerk read the return of service. The Moderator introduced Town Officials and reviewed Town Meeting procedures. There were no objections to non-resident Town Officials who were in attendance addressing the meeting, if necessary.

ARTICLE 1.

The Citizen of the Year Award was presented to the organization West Newbury Wild and Native (so-called "WN2") for their dedication and work to help to empower every gardener and landowner to rebuild and restore healthy ecosystems in the Town of West Newbury.

The Select Board also announced that several local Boards, Committees, and Commissions were in need of members. A few listed were the Finance Committee and the Conservation Commission.

There were no further reports from Town officers, Boards, Committees, or Commissions.

RECESS

At 9:24 A.M., the Moderator recessed the Annual Town Meeting to open the Spring Special Town Meeting. The Annual Town Meeting was re-opened at 9:57 A.M. following the adjournment of the Spring Special Town Meeting. The record of the Spring Special Town Meeting follows the record of the Annual Town Meeting. The reconvened Annual Town Meeting continued with discussion under Article 2 of the Annual Town Meeting warrant.

ARTICLE 2.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of this Article 4-1-0.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town vote to approve the transfer and appropriation of the sum of \$397,325 from the School Stabilization Fund to pay a portion of the Town share of debt service associated with the building of the new Middle/High School.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

The Town Moderator stated that, because this was a request for authorization of stabilization funding, passage of the article requires a 2/3 vote. With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 3.

The Finance Committee supports passage of this Article.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the amounts of money set forth in the printed report of the finance committee for the omnibus budget be appropriated for the several purposes therein itemized, each numbered item being considered as a separate appropriation, and that the same be expended only for such purposes.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

The Moderator addressed the procedure for adoption of the Line Item Budget for Fiscal Year 2023. Each Line Item is considered a separate appropriation. Any Town Meeting member wishing to discuss a line item was asked to call out "Hold" when the line item is read. Amending a line item requires two steps; first a motion to amend the main motion and then a motion to approve the main motion, as amended. The Moderator then read each Line Item name and number.

A Hold was called for line items 23: Pentucket Regional School Assessment and Pentucket Capital Assessment.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved to amend the main motion and to amend Line 23 Pentucket Regional School Assessment from \$7,767,169 to \$7,408,673.

The motions were seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion to amend the main motion carried unanimously.

With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion to amend the budget carried unanimously.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved to amend the main motion and to amend Line 23 Pentucket Capital Assessment from \$1,232,822 to \$835,497.

The motions were seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion to amend the main motion carried unanimously.

With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion to amend the budget carried unanimously.

With there being no further Holds or discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote on the main motion as amended and declared that the Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 4.

The Finance Committee made no recommendation.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Board of Water Commissioners be instructed that prior to the setting of the rates for the supply of water to its resident customers, that the Board of Water Commissioners holds a public hearing, advertised in a local newspaper at least fourteen days in advance, in which the methodology for the determination of water rates be discussed; and to further instruct the Board of Water Commissioners to explore opportunities for further regional collaboration regarding the operations, maintenance and/or capital improvements of the Water Department.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 5.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of this Article 5-0-0.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town appropriate in anticipation of Water Department revenues, the sum of \$1,050,948 of which \$319,297 for salaries and wages, which include \$1,700 for Water Commissioners' Stipends; \$73,196 for insurances; \$340,313 for expenses; \$144,188 for debt services; \$20,000 for extraordinary and unforeseen expenses; and \$53,954 for indirect costs; and \$100,000 for transfer into Water Stabilization, provided, however, that the transfer of said \$100,000 from the Water Enterprise Account into the Water Stabilization Account not take place until after a specific request for such transfer is provided by the Board of Water Commissioners to the Treasurer/Collector.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 6.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of this Article 5-0-0.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town approve the transfer the sum of \$7,500 from the Water Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings Account into the Water Enterprise Stabilization Fund.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 7.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of this Article 5-0-0.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$50,000 into the Pension Liability Stabilization Fund.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 8.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of this Article 4-0-0.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town vote to limit the total amount that may be expended from each revolving fund in Section XL of the Town Bylaws as set forth in Article 8 of the 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion carried.

ARTICLE 9.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of this Article 5-0-0.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$10,364 from the Septic Loan Revolving Account for the repayment of debt service.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

Town Manager Jennings explained after this appropriation there will only be two more payments, after this one, with the debt due to be paid off in its entirety in Fiscal Year 2025.

With there being no further discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 10.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of this Article 5-0-0.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town vote to allocate, appropriate and reserve from the Community Preservation Fund annual revenues the amounts set forth in Article 10 of the 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion carried.

ARTICLE 11.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of this Article 4-0-0.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$75,000 to fund unbudgeted personnel costs, with any remaining funds to be closed out to the general account fund balance at the close of Fiscal Year 2023.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

There was a question as to what this Article would be used for and Town Manager Jennings explained the ongoing grant-funded study being conducted by the Edward J. Collins Center for Public Management (housed at UMass Boston), and that the expected recommendations of the study will include updated job descriptions and wages/salaries. If the study finds that some number of positions' wages are below market, this article would provide the Town Manager and Select Board the funding to make wage adjustments prior to the FY24 budget cycle.

With there being no further discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion carried.

ARTICLE 12.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of this Article 3-2-0.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$15,000 to fund a feasibility study for the generation of solar electricity at several town-owned parcels, with any remaining funds to be closed out to the general account fund balance at the close of Fiscal Year 2023.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

Several Town Meeting members got up to speak in opposition of additional solar panels especially located at the Bandstand parking lot. Several Town meeting members also spoke in favor of the benefits of solar panels and canopies. Select Board member Richard Parker explained how similar programs have been executed with the Town of West Newbury and other municipalities, additionally noting this is a feasibility study of possible locations and nothing will be done without additional Town input.

With there being no further discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion carried.

ARTICLE 13.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of this Article 5-0-0.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$2,500 to provide matching funds for the next phase of a Historic Property Survey/Inventory, with any remaining funds to be closed out to the general account fund balance at the close of Fiscal Year 2023.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion carried.

ARTICLE 14.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of this Article 5-0-0.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$25,000 to fund an evaluation/audit of the brick exterior/lintels of the Page School, with any remaining funds to be closed out to Free Cash at the close of Fiscal Year 2024.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 15.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of this Article 5-0-0.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town vote to transfer from the Capital Stabilization Fund the sum of \$85,000 to fund a Structural Safety and Component Assessment Study for Page School, with any remaining funds to be closed out to the Capital Stabilization Fund at the close of Fiscal Year 2024.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

The Town Moderator stated that, because this was a request for authorization of stabilization funding, passage of the article requires a 2/3 vote. With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 16.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of this Article 4-1-0.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town vote to transfer from the Capital Stabilization Fund the sum of \$27,500 for all costs and expenses pertaining to roof replacement at the former Highway Garage, with any remaining funds to be closed out to the Capital Stabilization Fund at the close of Fiscal Year 2024.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member Wendy Reed.

The Town Moderator stated that, because this was a request for authorization of stabilization funding, passage of the article requires a 2/3 vote. With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion carried with a clear 2/3 majority with 1 person in opposition.

ARTICLE 17.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of this Article 4-1-0.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town vote to transfer from the Capital Stabilization Fund the sum of \$35,900 for all costs and expenses pertaining to the Department of Public Works (DPW) work station relocation from the Highway Divisions Garage, with any remaining funds to be closed out to the Capital Stabilization Fund at the close of Fiscal Year 2024.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

The Town Moderator stated that, because this was a request for authorization of stabilization funding, passage of the article requires a 2/3 vote. With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 18.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of this Article 4-1-0.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town vote to transfer from the Capital Stabilization Fund the sum of \$65,000 for all costs and expenses pertaining to the replacement of the Town Offices telecommunications system, with any remaining funds to be closed out to the Capital Stabilization Fund at the close of Fiscal Year 2024.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

The Town Moderator stated that, because this was a request for authorization of stabilization funding, passage of the article requires a 2/3 vote. With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion carried with a clear 2/3 majority with 1 person in opposition.

ARTICLE 19.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of this Article 4-1-0.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town vote to transfer from the Capital Stabilization Fund the sum of \$56,000 for all costs and expenses pertaining to the replacement of a pickup truck for the Facilities Division of the Department of Public Works, and to dispose of the existing pickup truck in accordance with Town policy for disposition of surplus property, with any remaining funds to be closed out to the Capital Stabilization Fund at the close of Fiscal Year 2024.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

A member of Town Meeting asked if the vehicle would be electric and the DPW Director Amaral responded yes.

The Town Moderator stated that, because this was a request for authorization of stabilization funding, passage of the article requires a 2/3 vote. With there being no further discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion carried with a clear 2/3 majority with 3 people in opposition.

ARTICLE 20.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of this Article 5-0-0.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town vote to transfer from the Capital Stabilization Fund the sum of \$80,000 for all costs and expenses pertaining to the replacement of an F-350 Dump Truck with a new F-550 Dump Truck for use by the Highway Division of the Department of Public Works, and to dispose of the existing pickup truck in accordance with Town policy for disposition of surplus property, with any remaining funds to be closed out to the Capital Stabilization Fund at the close of Fiscal Year 2024.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

The Town Moderator stated that, because this was a request for authorization of stabilization funding, passage of the article requires a 2/3 vote. With there being no further discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion carried with a clear 2/3 majority with 1 person in opposition.

ARTICLE 21.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of this Article 5-0-0.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town vote to transfer from the Capital Stabilization Fund the sum of \$39,000 for all costs and expenses pertaining to the purchase of new Public Safety Emergency Communication equipment and removal of outdated equipment, with any remaining funds to be closed out to the Capital Stabilization Fund at the close of Fiscal Year 2024.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

The Town Moderator stated that, because this was a request for authorization of stabilization funding, passage of the article requires a 2/3 vote. With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 22.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of this Article 5-0-0.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$10,000 for all costs and expenses pertaining to the

replacement/purchase of a new rescue air bag system for use by the Fire Department, with any remaining funds to be closed out to the general account fund balance at the close of Fiscal Year 2023.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 23.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of this Article 5-0-0.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$14,500 for all costs and expenses pertaining to the replacement and purchase of two new saws and power tools for use by the Fire Department, with any remaining funds to be closed out to the general account fund balance at the close of Fiscal Year 2023.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 24.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of this Article 5-0-0.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$342 to reimburse expenses budgeted and expended in a prior fiscal year.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 25.

The Finance Committee made no recommendation.

Judy Mizner moved that the Town take No Action on Article 25.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member Richard Parker.

A few residents spoke both in favor and against the Town taking action on this Article.

With there being no further discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion carried.

ARTICLE 26.

The Finance Committee made no recommendation.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town vote to accept Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 140, Section 139.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion carried.

ARTICLE 27.

The Finance Committee made no recommendation.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town vote to accept as a public way the layout of Sullivans Court Extension, as shown on a plan entitled "Sullivans Court Extension' Street Acceptance Plan," dated March 9, 2022, prepared by The Morin-Cameron Group, Inc., a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk's Office, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by purchase, gift, and/or eminent domain, the fee simple title to or a permanent easement in said roadway for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of West Newbury, including utility purposes, and any drainage, access, utility and other easements related thereto.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 28.

The Finance Committee made no recommendation.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town vote to amend the West Newbury Zoning Bylaw to amend Section 5.F.2(h) Inclusionary Housing Requirements, as on file and available for viewing in the Town Clerk's Office, and further, to authorize the Town Clerk to make any non-substantive, ministerial changes to numbering and formatting, so as to ensure consistency with the rest of the Zoning Bylaws, as necessary.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

The Town Moderator stated that, because this was a proposal to amend the Zoning Bylaws, passage of the article requires a 2/3 vote. With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 29.

The Finance Committee made no recommendation.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town vote to amend the West Newbury Town Bylaws to adopt a new Section entitled Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund Bylaw, as on file and available for viewing in the Town Clerk's Office, and further, to authorize the Town Clerk to make any non-substantive, ministerial changes to numbering and formatting, so as to ensure consistency with the rest of the Town Bylaws, as necessary.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion carried by a clear majority.

ARTICLE 30.

The Finance Committee made no recommendation.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town vote to amend the West Newbury Town Bylaws to repeal Article XXIX Building Numbering in its entirety and to adopt, in its place, a new Section entitled Building Numbering / Street Naming Bylaw, as on file and available for viewing in the Town Clerk's Office, and further, to authorize the Town Clerk to make any non-substantive, ministerial changes to numbering and formatting, so as to ensure consistency with the rest of the Town Bylaws, as necessary.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 31.

The Finance Committee made no recommendation.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town take No Action on Article 25.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

With there being no further discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

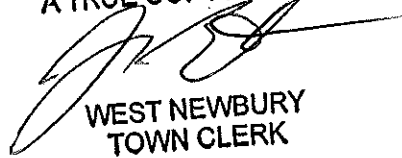
There was a motion to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting by Select Board member Richard Parker.

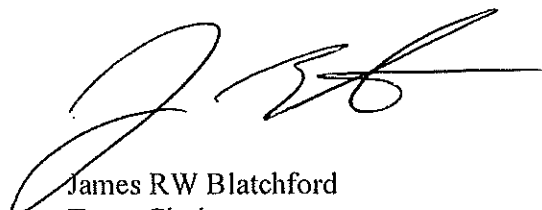
The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote and declared that the Motion carried.

Town Meeting adjourned at 11:17 A.M.

Attest:

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

**WEST NEWBURY
TOWN CLERK**


James RW Blatchford
Town Clerk

cc: Town Accountant/Business
Manager (2)
Select Board
Finance Committee
Board of Assessors
Board of Water Commissioners
Planning Board
Building Inspector