

**TOWN OF WEST NEWBURY  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
WARRANT – ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2024 @ 7:00pm**

Essex, ss.

To any of the Constables of the Town of West Newbury:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn all the inhabitants of the Town of West Newbury, who are qualified to vote in the elections and Town affairs, to meet in the **Page School, located at 694 Main Street, at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 29, 2024**, to act upon or take any other action relative to all but the first of the following articles.

Also, to meet in the Annex at 379 Main Street on Monday, May 6, 2024 to act on Article 1, which calls for the election of Town Officials. Polls will be open at 7:00 a.m. and will close at 8:00 p.m.

---

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT MATTERS**

---

**ARTICLE 1:** To give their votes to the election of the following offices:

Term Position Seat(s):

Three Years Selectman (1)  
Three Years School Committee (1)  
Three Years Assessor (1)  
Five Years Planning Board (1)  
Three Years Water Commissioner (1)  
Three Years Board of Health (1)  
Three Years Park & Recreation Commissioner (1)  
One Year Park & Recreation Commissioner (1)  
Five Years Housing Authority (1)  
Three Years Moderator (1)  
Three Years Library Trustees (3)  
Three Years Constable (1)

*By request of the Select Board.*

**ARTICLE 2:** To hear and act upon the reports of Town officers and committees, or take any other action relative thereto. *By request of the Select Board.*

**ARTICLE 3:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer and/or appropriate the sum of \$200,000.00 from the School Stabilization Fund to pay a portion of the Town share of debt services associated with the building of the Pentucket Middle/High School, or take any other action relative thereto. *By request of the Select Board.*

**ARTICLE 4:** To determine what sums of money the Town will raise and appropriate for defraying the expenses of the Town for ensuing fiscal year and for the payment of Town debt, or take any other action relative thereto. *By request of the Select Board.*

---

WATER ENTERPRISE FUND

---

**ARTICLE 5:** In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 38 of the Acts of 1936, to see what instructions, rules, and regulations the Town may wish to impose on the Board of Water Commissioners, or take any other action relative thereto. *By request of the Board of Water Commissioners.*

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, in anticipation of Water Department revenues, the sum of \$1,272,462.00 of which \$327,672.00 for salaries and wages, which include \$1,700.00 for Water Commissioners' Stipends; \$54,200.00 for insurances; \$442,653.00 for expenses; \$353,033.00 for debt service; \$20,000.00 for extraordinary and unforeseen expenses; and \$74,904.00 for budgeted surplus; and that \$58,440.00 be raised and appropriated in the General Fund and be allocated to the Water Enterprise Fund for indirect costs, or take any other action relative thereto. *By request of the Board of Water Commissioners.*

---

ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS

---

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer and/or appropriate the sum of \$10,364.00 from the Septic Loan Revolving Account for the repayment of debt service, or take any other action relative thereto. *By request of the Board of Health.*

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer and/or appropriate from available funds the sum of \$113,673.00 for the Pension Liability Stabilization Fund, or take any other action relative thereto. *By request of the Select Board.*

**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer and/or appropriate from available funds the sum of \$25,500.00 for contribution to the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Stabilization Fund, or take any other action relative thereto. *By request of the Select Board.*

**ARTICLE 10:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$40,000 from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund for the purposes of funding its FY 2025 cable-related expenses pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53F¾; or take any other action relative thereto. *By request of the Cable Advisory Committee.*

**ARTICLE 11:** To see if the Town, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½, and Section XL of the By-laws of the Town of West Newbury, will fix the maximum amounts that may be spent during the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2024 for the revolving funds established in town bylaws, as set forth below for certain departments, boards,

committees, agencies or officers, with such expenditure limits to be applicable for each fiscal year until such time as Town Meeting votes, prior to July 1 for the ensuing fiscal year, to revise the same; or take any other action relative thereto:

- Section 5.1 Summer Recreation Revolving Fund \$ 75,000.00
- Section 5.2 GAR Library Fines and Penalties Revolving Fund \$ 10,000.00
- Section 5.3 Police Vehicle Revolving Fund \$ 20,000.00
- Section 5.4 Pipestave/Mill Pond Care and Maintenance Revolving Fund \$ 5,000.00
- Section 5.5 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Revolving Fund \$ 10,000.00
- Section 5.6 Curbside Collection of Trash, Recycling and Food Waste Revolving Fund \$ 50,000.00
- Section 5.7 Council on Aging Program Revolving Fund \$ 30,000.00

*By request of the Select Board.*

**ARTICLE 12:** To see if the Town will vote to allocate and/or reserve from the Community Preservation Fund annual revenues, the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for committee administrative expenses, community preservation projects and other expenses in the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

- Appropriate \$36,500.00 from FY 2025 estimated revenues for Committee Administrative Expenses.
- Reserve \$73,000.00 from FY 2025 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve.
- Reserve \$73,000.00 from FY 2025 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve.
- Reserve \$73,000.00 from FY 2025 estimated revenues for Open Space & Recreation Reserve.
- Reserve \$474,500.00 from FY 2025 estimated revenues for Budgeted Reserve.

or take any other action relative thereto.

*By request of the Community Preservation Committee.*

**ARTICLE 13:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer and/or appropriate from Community Preservation Act funds, Community Housing Reserve, the sum of \$60,904.00 into the West Newbury Affordable Housing Trust, or take any other action relative thereto. *By request of the Community Preservation Committee.*

-----  
 ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS  
 -----

**ARTICLE 14:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$200,000.00 into the Stabilization Fund, or take any other action relative thereto. *By request of the Select Board.*

**ARTICLE 15:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer and/or appropriate from available funds the sum of \$57,000.00 to fund the purchase and equipping of a police cruiser, including all incidental and related costs, for use by the Police Department, or take any other action relative thereto. *By request of the Select Board.*

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer and/or appropriate from available funds the sum of \$90,000.00 to fund the purchase and installation of a generator for the Town Annex, located at 379 Main Street, including all incidental and related costs, or take any other action relative thereto. *By request of the Facilities Manager.*

**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer and/or appropriate from available funds the sum of \$41,540.00 to fund the purchase of additional boom mower accessories for the DPW MT7 Trackless Vehicle, including all incidental and related costs, or take any other action relative thereto. *By request of the Highway Superintendent.*

**ARTICLE 18:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer and/or appropriate from available funds the sum of \$40,000.00 to fund costs associated with the study of River Road, or take any other action relative thereto. *By request of the Select Board.*

---

**BY-LAWS - OTHERS**

---

**ARTICLE 19:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 5B, to create a special-purpose Municipal Stabilization Fund to be known as the Capital Stabilization Fund, for the purpose of funding future capital expenditures, or take any other action relative thereto. *By request of the Select Board.*

**ARTICLE 20:** To see if the town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 5B, to create a special-purpose Municipal Stabilization Fund to be known as the Water Pension Liability Stabilization Fund, for the purpose of funding future pension liabilities for Water Department employees and retirees, or take any other action relative thereto. *By request of the Select Board.*

**ARTICLE 21:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the West Newbury Town Bylaws, by repealing Title XXV (West Newbury Wetlands Protection By-Law) in its entirety, and inserting in its place a new Title XXV (Wetlands Protection By-Law), with the proposed bylaw on file and available for viewing in the Town Clerk's Office; and further to authorize the Town Clerk's office to make any non-substantive, ministerial changes to numbering and formatting to ensure consistency with the remainder of the Bylaws; or to take any other action relative thereto. *By request of the Conservation Commission.*

**ARTICLE 22:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the West Newbury Town Bylaws, Title VI (Animal By-Law), to require the leashing of dogs on Town-owned land, with the proposed bylaw amendments on file and available for viewing in the Town Clerk's Office; and further to authorize the Town Clerk's office to make any non-substantive, ministerial changes to the

numbering and formatting to ensure consistency with the remainder of the Bylaws; or take any other action relative thereto. *By request of the Select Board.*

**ARTICLE 23:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the West Newbury Town Bylaws, Title I (Original By-Laws), Section 8; and further to amend the West Newbury Town Bylaws, Title VIII (Finance Committee By-Law; with the proposed bylaw amendments on file and available for viewing in the Town Clerk’s Office, and further to authorize the Town Clerk’s office to make any non-substantive, ministerial changes to numbering and formatting, to ensure consistency with the rest of the Town Bylaws, or take any other action relative thereto. *By request of the Finance Committee.*

**ARTICLE 24:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the West Newbury Town Bylaws, Title XX (Town Meeting/Elections), to add the following sub-section at the end of the section:

“VOTES TO BE DECLARED BY MODERATOR BY-LAW

The Moderator may take all votes requiring a two-thirds majority in the same manner in which they conduct the taking of a vote when a majority vote is required.”

a copy of which are on file and available for viewing in the Town Clerk’s Office, and further to authorize the Town Clerk’s office to make any non-substantive, ministerial changes to numbering and formatting, so as to ensure consistency with the rest of the Town Bylaws, or take any other action relative thereto. *By request of the Select Board.*

**ARTICLE 25:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the West Newbury Zoning By-Law, Section 2 (Definitions), including all internal citations therein, a copy of which is on file with the Town of West Newbury Town Clerk and is updated through October 23, 2023 (the “Existing Zoning By-law”), with the proposed bylaw amendments on file and available for viewing in the Town Clerk’s Office, and further to authorize the Town Clerk’s office to make any non-substantive, ministerial changes to numbering and formatting, to ensure consistency with the rest of the Zoning By-Law, or take any other action relative thereto. *By request of the Planning Board.*

**ARTICLE 26:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5N, authorizing the Town to establish a program to allow qualifying veterans to volunteer services to the town in exchange for a reduction in the veteran’s real property tax obligations, or take any other action relative thereto. *By request of the Select Board.*

-----  
CITIZEN PETITIONS  
-----

**ARTICLE 27:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer and/or appropriate from available funds the sum of \$100,000 to fund the costs associated with the creation of a district under MGL c. 40R for Town of West Newbury-owned lots identified on the assessors maps R13-131 (the Mullen property), R13-130 (the driveway for the Mullen property), and/or R10-34 (the Soldiers

and Sailors property) (the “Properties”); to prepare an Request for Proposals (the “RFP”) for the disposal of all or any portion of the Properties, said work to satisfy the requirements of the MBTA Housing Requirements as described in Section 3A of MGL c. 40A and with the goal of maximizing the number of possible affordable housing units; and to authorize the Selectmen to dispose, by sale or lease, all or any portion of the Properties, subject to the RFP and other procurement requirements; or take any other action relative thereto. *By citizen petition.*

**ARTICLE 28:** To see if the Town will recommend to the Select Board that they file a home rule petition with the General Court substantially as follows, viz:

“Notwithstanding Section 1 of Chapter 51 of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, any citizen who:

1. is 16 years of age or older, and
2. meets the qualifications to be registered as a voter pursuant to Section 1 of Chapter 51 of the General Laws, except that of age, and
3. is a resident of the Town of West Newbury at the time he, she, or they registers or pre-registers to vote pursuant to said Chapter 51,

may vote therein in all town elections, participate and vote in all town meetings, participate and vote in town caucuses, and sign all nominating, warrants, and other petitions authorized by town bylaws.

A person shall be a pre-registered or registered voter of at least sixteen (16) years of age to be eligible to serve in appointed town boards, committees, commissions, or other official positions.”

*By request of citizen petition.*

You are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies thereof at least 14 days before the date of the Annual Town Meeting, as provided within the Town Bylaws.

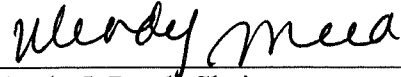
LOCATIONS TO POST WARRANT:

1910 Town Office Building  
G.A.R. Memorial Library  
Public Safety Building  
Laurel Grange  
Post Office  
Town Hall

Hereof fail not to make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of holding said meeting.

Given under our hands this 12th day of April, 2024.

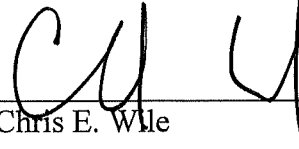
BOARD OF SELECTMEN



Wendy J. Reed, Chair

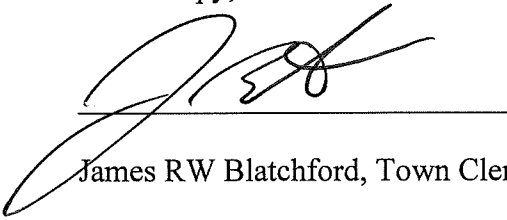


Richard G. Parker



Chris E. Wile

A true copy, attested:



James RW Blatchford, Town Clerk

Pursuant to the above warrant to me directed, I hereby notify and warn all the inhabitants of the Town of West Newbury who are qualified to vote to meet at said time and place.



Constable, Brian Richard

4-13-24  
Date of Posting

Pursuant to the above warrant to me directed, I have notified and warned all the inhabitants of the Town of West Newbury who are qualified to vote to meet at said time and place.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Constable, Brian Richard

4 13 24  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Posting