

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF GOSHEN
WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

HAMPSHIRE: ss

Date: May 7, 2024

To: The Constable of the Town of Goshen in said County

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to warn and notify the inhabitants of the Town of Goshen, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet in the John James Memorial Town Hall at 42 Main Street, on **Saturday, May 18, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.** to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of **\$6,442.15** for the payment of the principal and interest on the 2019 Ford Super Duty F350 ¾ ton pickup truck, or take any other action relative thereto.

Ford Super Duty F350 pickup truck	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2019	\$6,278.90	\$163.25	\$6,442.15

Note: 2/3rds vote is required.

Note: This is the 5th of 5 payments. This expenditure is a contractual payment for previously authorized & signed borrowing.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of **\$10,969.07** for the payment of the principal and interest on the 2019 Police Ford K8A Interceptor Utility AWD, or take any other action relative thereto.

Police Ford K8A Interceptor Utility AWD	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2019	\$10,691.10	\$277.97	\$10,969.07

Note: 2/3rds vote is required.

Note: This is the 5th of 5 payments. This expenditure is a contractual payment for previously authorized signed borrowing.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of **\$28,225.** for the payment of the principal and interest on the 2019 Mack single axle primary plow/dump truck, or take any other action relative thereto.

Mack Primary Plow/Dump Truck	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2019	\$22,000.00	\$6,225.00	\$28,225.00

Note: 2/3rds vote is required.

Note: This is the 5th of 10 payments. This expenditure is a contractual payment for previously authorized & signed borrowing.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of **\$9,321.68** for the payment of the principal and interest on the Yanmar YT235 tractor, or take any other action relative thereto.

Yanmar YT235 Tractor	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2021	\$8,720.00	\$601.68	\$9,321.68

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF GOSHEN
WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

HAMPSHIRE: ss

Date: May 7, 2024

Note: 2/3rds vote is required.

Note: This is the 3rd of 5 payments. This expenditure is a contractual payment for previously authorized borrowing & signed borrowing.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from MLP Certified Retained Earnings an amount equal to the full balance in retained earnings of **\$193,651** to reduce the principal owed by that amount on the original \$1.2 million dollars borrowed for Broadband or take any other action relative thereto.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: These funds represent MLP High Speed Internet revenues available from the 2nd year of operation which will be used to pay down the debt owed. As a result of this action, future taxes to be raised for Broadband debt, including interest, will be lower as the overall principal to be repaid will be lower.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$367.13** from Free Cash to the account known as "Bills of Prior Years" for the payment of an FY 2023 bill for the Public Health Waste Disposal or take any other action relative thereto.

Note: A 4/5th vote is required at an ATM.

Note: This bill was received too late to be processed in FY23.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to transfer, from Free Cash, the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of repairing the damaged stones in the Cemetery that require repair and to authorize the Select Board to expend such monies for this purpose or take any other action relative thereto.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: The last time this was done was in 2010.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash, the sum of **\$10,000** to be used to repair the landfill cap which is damaged by this year's 100-year storms or take any other action relative thereto.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: The Department of Environment Protection has indicated this is an ongoing process and we can expect some level of maintenance ever year based on weather events.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of **\$9,000** to the Cell Tower Stabilization Account or take any other action relative thereto.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: This represents the amount of cell tower rental income received annually and will help to offset future cell tower related costs, together with any funds received for participating communities using out tower and equipment.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash, the sum of **\$5,000**, to the OPEB Liability Trust Fund for the purpose of covering Other Post-Employment Benefits. And, to authorize the Treasurer (The OPEB trustee) to expend such monies for this purpose or take any other action relative thereto.

Note: Majority vote is required.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF GOSHEN
WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

HAMPSHIRE: ss

Date: May 7, 2024

Note: The OPEB Liability Trust Fund was approved by vote at the Annual Town Meeting of June 12, 2021, article 23. The liability is actuarially calculated, and is a standard governmental accounting best practice for recording unfunded future liabilities.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to transfer, from Free Cash, the sum of **\$20,000** for the purpose of hiring a consultant to work with the appropriate committees and/or boards, to create a comprehensive book of General By-Laws, and to authorize the Select Board to expend such monies for this purpose or take any other action relative thereto.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: The General By-laws exist in various places, such as the Town Meeting Minutes and Town Clerk's office. There is no central collection of the Town's By-laws.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of **\$10,000**, for the purpose of tree removal. And, to authorize the Select Board to expend such monies for this purpose or take any other action relative thereto.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: This is to proactively remove trees jeopardizing the Town's right of way and to alleviate the frequency of utility & internet service interruptions. The work will be planned and overseen by the Tree Warden in coordination with the Highway Supervisor and MLP Manager.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of **\$8,000** for the purpose of purchasing Fire Department Turnout Gear to meet state compliance guidelines, and, to authorize the Fire Chief to expend such monies from a turnout gear project account for this purpose or take any other action relative thereto.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: Turnout gear is required to be replaced every 10 years and includes jackets, pants, boots, helmets, hoods and gloves. Funds for a standard replacement of 2 full sets per year have been in the Fire Dept. budget. More gear is required to bring all current.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to transfer, from Free Cash, the sum of **\$338,152.87** to the Capital Stabilization Account, or take any other action relative thereto.

Note: Majority vote is required.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$5,000** in the Restructure Chart of Accounts expense code to the Capital Stabilization Account or take any other action relative thereto.

Note: A majority Vote is required.

Note: This Chart of Accounts conversion payment to Eric Kinsherf, CPA is being funded as part of the \$86,047 Community Compact Cabinet IT grant received for the Integrated Financial System Software Project undertaken in FY 2024. This amount was originally set aside from Free Cash in Article 11 at the June 12, 2021 ATM.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to transfer **\$60,000** from the account known as Assessors Overlay Surplus to reduce the FY 2025 tax rate or to take any other action relative thereto.

Note: Majority vote is required

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF GOSHEN
WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

HAMPSHIRE: ss

Date: May 7, 2024

Note: The Overlay Surplus account is required by the DOR to reserve for tax exemptions, abatements, and uncollected taxes. In that the Tax Collector has collected a lot of outstanding taxes the Board of Assessors is allowed to reduce the amount in this overlay account.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary to fund the FY 2025 budget and defray the charges from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, for the maintenance and operation of the Town, or take any other action relative thereto.

Note: Majority vote is required.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to approve the Goshen MLP Enterprise Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 or take any action relative thereto.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: The MLP budget is funded from MLP subscriber fees.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to set the compensation of Town employees and appointed officials as established in the Town's personnel policies, or take any other action relative thereto.

Note: Majority vote is required.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries and hourly rates of all compensated elected officers of the Town for Fiscal Year 2025 as indicated by M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 108, or take any other action relative thereto.

ELECTED POSITION	COMPENSATION
Moderator	\$ 206.00
Board of Assessors, each of the 3 members	\$ 2,595.60
Select Board, Clerk	\$ 3,605.00
Select Board, Vice-Chair	\$ 5,665.00
Select Board, Chair	\$ 6,695.00
Town Clerk	\$ 19,673.00

Note: Majority vote is required.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation Act annual revenues, for community preservation projects, and other expenses, in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee as follows, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

Appropriations From FY 2025 estimated revenues:

\$8,500 for Committee Administrative Expenses

Reserves From FY 2025 Estimated Revenues:

\$ 17,000 for Historic Resources Reserve
\$ 17,000 for Community Housing Reserve
\$ 17,000 for Open Space Reserve
\$110,000 for CPA Budget Reserve

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: These figures are based on the estimated FY2025 real estate tax Community Preservation Act surcharge commitments plus a 100% match

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF GOSHEN
WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

HAMPSHIRE: ss

Date: May 7, 2024

from the state, allocated by a minimum of 10% percent to Historic Resources, 10% to Open Space, 10% to Community Housing, and a maximum of 5% to Administrative Expenses and the remainder to Budgeted Reserve (65%).

ARTICLE 22:

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §53E½, as most recently amended, to set Fiscal Year 2025 spending limits for the Revolving Funds as follows. Or take any other action relative thereto.

Program or Purpose	FY 2025 Spending Limit
Highland Ambulance Fuel Reimbursement Account	\$12,000
Animal Control Revolving Fund	\$7,500
Board of Appeals Revolving Fund	\$6,000
Electrical Inspector Revolving Fund	\$5,000

Note: Majority vote is required.

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to M.G.L. c.268A, §21A to authorize the Board of Assessors, Board of Health, Finance Committee, Planning Board, Select Board, and the Tilton Town Supervisors, Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, and Council on Aging to appoint their own members to positions under their respective jurisdictions and supervision as shall be established by Town Meeting, or take any other action relative thereto.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: Due to the continuing need to find and fill roles with qualified and available individuals in small towns, this article allows these Boards or Committees to appoint their own members to subordinate positions, if necessary.

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to expend out of the Capital Stabilization Account **\$30,000** to resurface the driveway at the Town Fire Department or take any other action relative thereto.

Note: A 2/3rds vote is required.

Note: This is regular maintenance for the Fire Department parking lot.

ARTICLE 25:

To see if the Town will vote to accept as a public way the roadway known as Sugar Maple Lane, as heretofore laid out by the Select Board and shown on a plan of land entitled "Street Acceptance Plan, Sugar Maple Lane. Located in Goshen, Massachusetts", dated April 25, 2024 prepared by Northeast Survey Consultants, PC, and on file with the Town Clerk, and authorize the Select Board to acquire, by gift, purchase, and/or eminent domain, the fee to and/or easements in Sugar Maple Lane for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Goshen and any drainage, access, utility and/or other easements related thereto; or take any other action relative thereto.

Note: A Majority vote is required.

Note: In 2006 a subdivision was approved in a location off East Street. The subdivision road became known as Sugar Maple Lane. The road has been inspected and found to meet the specifications of the Street Acceptance Plan.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF GOSHEN
WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

HAMPSHIRE: ss

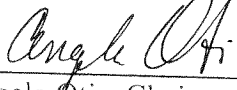
Date: May 7, 2024

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

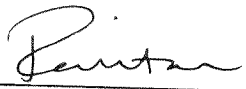
You are directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies thereof publicly seven days, at least, before said meeting.

Given under our hands this 7th day of May 2024.

SELECT BOARD OF GOSHEN:



Angela Otis, Chair



Peri Hall, Vice Chair



Kristine Bissell, Clerk


I have posted attested copies as directed.



Constable

5/8/24
Date: Month/Day/Year

Return of Service:



Constable

5/8/24
Date: Month/Day/Year