

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF GOSHEN
WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

HAMPSHIRE: ss

Date: July 17, 2020

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 outside on the field behind the Town Offices at 40 Main Street, adjacent to the playground on **Monday, July 25, 2020 at 9:30 a.m** to act on the following articles:

- ARTICLE 1: To choose all necessary officers to serve for the ensuing year, or take any other action relative thereto.
- ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to permit 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.
- ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the chief elected officials to apply for Massachusetts Small Cities Programs, or other Federal, or any State monies, and to expend any monies as received as set forth in the appropriate application, or take any other action relative thereto.
- ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, an additional sum of money to defray the costs and expenses of the Town of Goshen for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, all as set forth on the handout entitled, "**Finance Committee Report and Recommendations for the Annual Town Meeting on July 25, 2020 for Goshen Massachusetts**", in the section entitled, "**FY 2021 Contingent Budget**"; provided, however, that the vote taken hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters at an election of a Proposition 2 ½, so called, override question permanently increasing the levy by the total amount shown in the handout; or take any other action relative thereto.

Note: majority vote is required.

Note: A levy limit override increases the amount of property tax revenue a community may raise in the year specified in the override question and in future years. It increases the community's levy limit and becomes part of the base for calculating future years' levy limits. The result is a permanent increase in taxing authority. G.L. c. 59 § 21C(g). The purpose of the override is to provide funding for municipal expenses likely to recur or continue into the future, such as annual operating and fixed costs, although it may be used for any municipal spending purpose.

- ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$200,000.00 to the highway/public safety project to be expended for the purpose of a feasibility study and pre-design to be developed and then brought forth to the town residents, or take any other action relative thereto.

Note: Majority vote is required.

- ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$16,813.89 to the Capital Stabilization Account, or take any other action relative thereto.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: To fund the Capital Stabilization Account.

- ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to expend from Free Cash the sum of \$8,662.17 for the payment of the principal and interest on the 2008 International single axle secondary plow/ dump Truck, or take any other action relative thereto.

International Truck	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2008	\$8,234.00	\$428.17	\$8,662.17

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: This is the 4th of 5 payments. This expenditure is a contractual payment for previously authorized & signed borrowing.

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ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$7,095.16 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	\$816.26	\$7,095.16

Note: 2/3rds vote is required.

Note: This is the 1st of 5 payments. This expenditure is a contractual payment for previously authorized & signed borrowing.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$26,510.00 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	\$4,510.00	\$26,510.00

Note: 2/3rds vote is required.

Note: This is the 1st of 10 payments. This expenditure is a contractual payment for previously authorized & signed borrowing.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$9,477.00 for the payment of the principal and interest on the 2017 Police Ford Interceptor, or take any other action relative thereto.

Police Ford Interceptor	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2017	\$9,000.00	\$477.00	\$9,477.00

Note: 2/3rds vote is required.

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

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$12,080.94 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	\$1,389.84	\$12,080.94

Note: 2/3rds vote is required.

Note: This is the 1st of 5 payments. This expenditure is a contractual payment for previously authorized signed borrowing.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$198.94 from Free Cash to the account known as "Bills of Prior Years" for the purpose of payment of FY2019 bills from the following accounts: Board of Health, \$100.00, for United Site Services; the Library, \$98.94, for books, or take any other action relative thereto.

Note: A 4/5ths vote is required for a bill of a prior year at an ATM.

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ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to rescind the debt authorizations for the dates and unissued amounts below, or take any other action relative thereto.

Original Article & Authority Date	Project or Purpose	Unissued Amount
STM 10/11/2016, Article 7	2008 International 7500 series dump/plow truck	\$8,830.00
ATM 5/20/2019, Article 15	2019 Police Ford K8A Interceptor Utility AWD	\$1,625.00
ATM 5/20/2019, Article 16	2019 Ford Super Duty F350 pickup truck	\$1,519.00

Note: A majority vote is required.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to rescind the debt authorization for the unissued amount of \$538,321.41 from Article 29 of the May 20, 2019 Annual Town Meeting for a roof replacement for the New Hingham School, or take any other action relative thereto.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: Total project costs for both Chesterfield and Goshen amounted to \$261,678.59 as approved by the New Hingham school committee. The total project borrowing authorization was for \$800,000.00. Goshen's share of the project cost is \$129,213.76.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation annual revenues, in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, for community preservation projects, and other expenses in fiscal year 2021, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

Appropriations:

From FY 2021 estimated revenues for Committee Administrative Expenses \$ 5,000

Reserves:

From FY 2021 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve \$16,000

From FY 2021 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve \$16,000

From FY 2021 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve \$16,000

From FY 2021 estimated revenues for Budgeted Reserve \$74,000

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: Total appropriation includes 90% of the expected 100% state match.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the town will vote to close to the general fund, the remaining balance as of June 30, 2020 in the FRTA revolving account which was authorized at May 20, 2019 Annual Town Meeting, article 24, or take any other action relative thereto.

Note: Majority vote is required.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §54E½, as most recently amended, to set Fiscal Year 2021 spending limits for the Revolving Funds as follows. Or, take any other action relative thereto.

Program or Purpose	FY 2021 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.

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ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to change the composition of the Open Space Committee from 7 members to 5 members effective immediately, or take any other action relative thereto.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: This article acknowledges that we need to address the topic of beginning to reduce the membership numbers on certain boards and committees that can not find enough interested and qualified individuals with enough time who are willing to serve.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to supplement each prior vote of the Town that authorizes the borrowing of money to pay costs of capital projects to provide that, in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, the premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes thereunder, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bond or notes, may be applied to pay project costs and the amount authorized to be borrowed for each such project shall be reduced by the amount of any such premium so applied, or take any other action relative thereto

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: Adoption of this section of MGL would allow the Town to apply bond monies in excess of the authorization (bond premium) to a capital project, allowing the Town to reduce the amount that it actually borrows for that project, in this case for broadband. This change was allowed under the Municipal Modernization Act enacted in November 2016 and may be applied to any long term bond borrowing.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c. 64G, section 3A, and impose a local excise tax upon the transfer of occupancy of any room or rooms in a bed and breakfast establishment, hotel, lodging house, short term rental, or motel located within the Town at a rate of 6.00% , said excise tax to take effect on the first day of the calendar quarter commencing at least thirty days after such vote of the Town Meeting, or take any action relative thereto.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: Adoption of this section of MGL would allow the Town to collect a local excise tax for all of the types short term rentals indicated above in the percentage specified.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 108P concerning additional compensation for collectors or treasurers, or take any other action relative thereto. Full text of the section is in the next paragraph.

Section 108P. In any city, town or district that accepts this section, a collector or a treasurer who has completed the necessary courses of study and training and has been awarded a certificate by the Massachusetts Collectors and Treasurers Association as a certified Massachusetts municipal collector or a certified Massachusetts municipal treasurer or a certified Massachusetts district treasurer, shall receive as compensation from such city, town or district, in addition to the regular annual compensation paid by such city, town or district for services in such office, an amount equal to 10 per cent of such regular annual compensation, but not more than \$1,000 per year. A collector or treasurer who has been awarded both certificates referred to above shall receive such additional compensation for only one such certificate. In order to qualify for such additional compensation, a collector or treasurer shall submit to the mayor or the board of selectmen of such city or town, or the governing board of a district proof of the award of either or both such certificates. The additional compensation provided in this section shall be prorated for any 12 month period in which an eligible person does not hold the office of collector or treasurer for 12 consecutive months. Such additional compensation shall be discontinued when certification is discontinued or withdrawn.

Note: Majority vote is required

Note: This allows and specifies the amounts of additional compensation based upon the completion of certain training courses for Collectors & Treasurers.

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ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 19K concerning additional compensation for town clerks, or take any other action relative thereto. Full text of the section is in the next paragraph.

Section 19K: In any town, that accepts this section, a town clerk who has completed the necessary courses of study and training, and has been awarded a certificate by the Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association as a certified Massachusetts municipal clerk, shall receive as compensation from such town, in addition to the regular annual compensation paid by such town for services in such office, an amount equal to 10 per cent of such regular annual compensation, but not more than \$1,000 per year. In order to qualify for such additional compensation, a town clerk shall submit to the board of selectmen of such town proof of the award of such certificate. The additional compensation provided in this section shall be prorated for any 12 month period in which an eligible person does not hold the office of town clerk for 12 consecutive months. Such additional compensation shall discontinue when certification is discontinued or withdrawn.

Note: Majority vote is required

Note: This allows and specifies the amounts of additional compensation based upon the completion of certain training courses for town clerks.

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 21A concerning additional compensation for Assessors & Assistant Assessors, or take any other action relative thereto. Full text of the section is in the next paragraph.

Section 21A: In any city or town which accepts this section, an assessor or assistant assessor who has completed the necessary courses of study and training and has been awarded a certificate by the International Association of Assessing Officers as a certified assessment evaluator or who has been awarded a certificate by the Association of Massachusetts Assessors as a certified Massachusetts assessor shall receive as compensation from such city or town, in addition to the regular compensation paid by such city or town for services in such office, an amount equal to ten per cent of such regular compensation; provided, however, that in no event shall such additional compensation exceed one thousand dollars annually, if such assessor or assistant assessor is employed on a full-time basis, or five hundred dollars, if such assessor or assistant assessor is employed on a part-time basis. An assessor who has been awarded both certificates referred to above shall receive such additional compensation for only one of such certificates. In order to qualify for such additional compensation, an assessor or assistant assessor shall submit proof that he has been awarded either or both of the aforesaid certificates to the mayor or the board of selectmen of such city or town. The additional compensation herein provided shall be prorated for any twelve month period in which an eligible person does not hold the office of assessor or assistant assessor for twelve consecutive months.

Note: Majority vote is required

Note: This allows and specifies the amounts of additional compensation based upon the completion of certain training courses for Assessors & Assistant Assessors.

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ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to amend its General By-laws pursuant to M.G.L. c.41, §106B, to establish a Capital Planning Committee that will replace any previous Capital Planning Committee. Or take any other action relative thereto.

The Capital Planning Committee shall be made up of five members, each appointed for three- (3) year staggered terms. All members shall be appointed by the Select Board, and initially, one member shall be appointed for (1) one year, two members for (2) two years and two members shall be appointed for (3) three years. Two members are to be appointed from amongst the Finance Committee by the Select Board. The remaining three committee members are appointed by the Select Board based upon the best available candidates with an appropriate background and knowledge to fulfill the needs and duties of the Committee. All appointments shall be based upon the beginning and ending of the fiscal year for the terms described above. Any vacancy for an unexpired term shall be filled in the same manner so as to complete the term of the original appointment.

Purpose and role of the Capital Planning Committee:

The fundamental purpose of the Capital Planning Committee shall be to enhance the Town's capacity to identify, prioritize, and understand the financial implications of capital projects with a useful life of at least five (5) years, and an aggregate cost of at least \$5,000. And, to develop a capital plan relative to the afore mentioned purpose. Further, the Capital Planning Committee will work with the Finance Committee to develop policies consistent with best practices.

- ▶ The Capital Planning Committee should solicit requests from each municipal department that would have a capital request meeting the above criteria. The departmental requests should include a brief statement of justification of the request including why it is needed; what is the useful life of the item, what is the estimated cost of the item and why it is necessary in the year for which it is being requested.
- ▶ The Capital Planning Committee shall gather information, review and prioritize recommendations regarding capital project needs and expenditures that will be funded by annual appropriations in accordance with the financial constraints of the Town.
- ▶ Develop and present a capital plan budget and multi-year capital program to the Finance Committee and Select Board with the recommendations of the Capital Planning Committee for what should and should not be included in any given year.
- ▶ In conjunction with the Finance Committee analyze the municipality's ability to afford major expenditures by examining recent and anticipated trends in revenues, expenditures and debt burden and propose a method of payment that will be supported by the ability of the Town to pay for it with current revenue; available reserves; debt or debt excluded and debt overrides from the limits of Proposition 2 ½.
- ▶ The funding strategy for the Capital Stabilization account should be consistent with best practices such as targeting 3% - 5% of the levy limit or 3% - 5% of the annual budget, prior to debt exclusions.
- ▶ The Capital Planning Committee, in conjunction with the Finance Committee, should recommend a method for financing each project.

Note: Majority vote is required

Note: This change would establish the Capital Planning Committee to conform to the current M.G.L. requirements.

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Note pertaining to citizen petitions below: Citizen Petitions, after certification, are required to be placed on the warrant exactly as they are provided. Citizen petitions do not override the legal or statutory authority that is granted to the various municipal bodies.

ARTICLE 25: This is a citizen's petition submitted and certified by three Registrars of voters of the Town of Goshen.

To see if the Town will vote to require the Select Board to:

- Immediately stop any further activity related to the East Street Pathway, a.k.a. East Street Pedestrian / Bicycle Accommodations (Phase 1),
- Quantify and post a listing of all the necessary land takings, easements, rights of entry, etc. as indicated in the DOT Tier 3 Project application (Exhibit C), dated September 26th 2019, to the town website,
- Hold an open meeting with taxpayers before October 1st 2020, to review the necessity and legality of the entire project.

Further, regarding any and all future Complete Streets projects, the Select Board shall:

- Solicit feedback in advance from the general public of Goshen on potential projects, to ensure that the perspectives of the community are considered, as adopted in the Complete Streets Policy and signed by the Goshen Select Board on August 20th 2018,
- Clearly identify budget request and specific land takings associated with potential projects, in budget recommendations presented to the voters of the Town of Goshen at future town meetings,
- Quantify expenditures related to the project whether incurred by the residents of the Town of Goshen or by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through other means – to be updated monthly and posted to the town website on its own page in the Capital Projects section,

and to take any other action relative thereto.

Note: This article addresses both the East Street Pathway and Complete Streets projects.

With regards to the East Street Pathway, this article seeks to:

- Stop the current Complete Streets project, aka, the East Street Pathway,
- Quantify the specific land taking required for this project,
- Discuss the purpose and need of this project, to determine the next steps.

Further, with regards to any and all future Complete Streets projects, this article seeks to:

- Discuss the purpose and need of any new project ... before starting it,
- Clearly define all costs and land takings of any new project ... before starting it,
- Post a monthly accounting of activities of any new project ... during implementation.

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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.

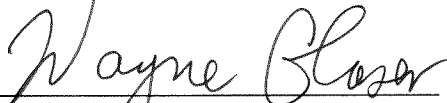
And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies thereof publicly Seven days, at least, before said meeting.

Given under our hands this 17th day of July 2020.


SELECT BOARD OF GOSHEN:



Angela Otis, Chair




Wayne Glaser, Vice Chair

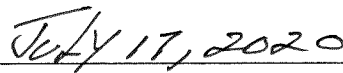


Kristine Bissell, Clerk

I have posted attested copies as directed.




Constable




Date: Month/Day/Year

Return of Service:



Constable



Date: Month/Day/Year