

TOWN WARRANT

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

FRANKLIN, ss.

To the Constable of the Town of Wendell in the County of Franklin,
Greetings,

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs, to meet at the Town Hall in said Town on **Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at 7 pm** then and there to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of Town Officials as printed in the Town Report, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 in accordance with the provisions of the MGL Chapter 44, Section 4, and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 17, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements during fiscal year 2024 as permitted by MGL Chapter 44, Section 53F, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary, compensation, and expenses of all elected and appointed officials of the Town for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, as provided in MGL Chapter 41, as amended, and to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,700,000 from taxation or such other sum of money as deemed necessary to defray such salaries and expenses for that period, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to authorize revolving fund annual expenditure amounts for Fiscal Year 2024 as shown in the table below, or take any action relative thereto:

Fund	Annual Expenditure Limit
Wiring Inspector	\$10,000
Plumbing/Gas Inspector	\$10,000
Town Hall Kitchen	\$10,000
Recreation Commission	\$5,000
Recycling	\$15,000
Veteran’s Memorial	\$15,000

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2500 to add to the Insurance Reserve Fund, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$25,000 from Stabilization for the Reserve Fund, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$6,000 from Stabilization for the Independent Audit expenses, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$477,610 for the MLP Enterprise Fund beginning July 1, 2023 in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c.44, sec 53 F ½, amount to be funded from the following sources, or take any action relative thereto.

Total Revenues

User Fees (Subscriptions)

Estimated 367 total subscribers with an MLP fee of \$60.00 per month, monthly ISP/NOC fee of \$34.00 for internet, and \$20 for VOIP phone, Static IP of \$12.95.

MLP Enterprise Budget

Estimated Revenues

User Fees	\$477,610
Total	\$477,610

Budget

	FY2024
ISP/NOC Internet+Phone	\$88,862
ISP/NOC Internet Only	\$65,856
ISP/NOC Phone Only	\$156
Static IP	\$622
Phone Est. Fees	\$20,400
Payment Processing	\$12,600
Routine maintenance	\$70,736
Insurance	\$6,439
General Admin	\$6,000
Backhaul	\$43,024
Bond fee for poles	\$6,000
Pole rental	\$20,201
POP electricity	\$3,000
Electronic Depreciation	\$30,781
Trucks on Retainer	\$4,240
Lifeline Annual Cost	\$3,000
CAF-2 Administration Fee	\$222
LifeLine Subscriber costs	\$1,560
Digsafe Administration	\$992
Telephone Shipping	\$200

New Install and Infrastructure Design & Construction	\$20,000
Emergency and Unanticipated	\$32,000
Debt Service Payment	\$33,219
Direct Cost SUBTOTAL	\$470,110

Indirect Costs	
Auditor	\$4,000
Legal	\$3,500
Total	\$7,500

Grand Total	\$477,610
Revenue	\$477,610

\$477,610 from enterprise revenues.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$132,084.99 (\$82,639.20 principal and \$49,445.79 interest) to pay the FY24 debt service on the Broadband Project or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$132,084.99 from MLP Enterprise Fund retained earnings to reimburse the General Fund for payment of the FY24 debt service on the Broadband Project (\$82,639.20 principal, \$49,445.79 interest), in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c.44, sec. 53 F ½, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$50,000.00 from MLP Enterprise Fund retained earnings to pay the estimated cost of the Wendell Municipal Light Plant's share of the Eastern Tier network redundancy project, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c.44, sec. 53 F ½, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$30,781 from the MLP Enterprise Fund to the Broadband Enterprise Capital Stabilization Fund, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c.44, sec. 53 F ½, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$164.34 to pay a Bill of Prior Year for the Planning Board.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 from to pay for Fire Department turn-out gear, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$65,789 (\$32,851 principal and \$32,938 interest) to pay the fiscal year 2024 debt service on the Town Building Construction loan, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$24,061 to pay the FY24 debt service on the Backhoe, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,504 to pay the FY24 debt service on the Front End Loader, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000 to pay for Tree Maintenance or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,266 to pay the FY24 debt service on the Mahar Construction Loan, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to re-pave the WRATS or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Stabilization the sum of \$200,000 to reduce the tax rate, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.40, §5B, to create a new special purpose stabilization fund, to be known as the OPIOID SETTLEMENT STABILIZATION FUND, which may be expended for all of the purposes allowed by law, including those outlined in applicable opioid-litigation settlement documents, a document prepared by the Substance Abuse Bureau of the Commonwealth's Office of Health and Human Services Department, found at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-abatementterms/download> entitled "Abatement Strategies," and consistent with any state guidelines or regulations further clarifying allowable uses of opioid litigation settlement funds; and further, to adopt the last paragraph of said §5B and dedicate to such fund, without further appropriation, 100% of the opioid litigation settlement funds received by the Town; and further to, transfer from available funds a sum of money equal to that received or to be received by the Town from opioid litigation settlements resulting from the Town's participation in the national Opioid Multi-District Litigation into said Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund; or take any other action related thereon or in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will adopt the following resolution:

Be It Resolved That:

Citizens of the Town of Wendell offer to share the Town Common with related Original Native Tribes. The details will be proposed by a working committee of three to five Wendell citizens appointed by the Select Board. This committee will organize meetings with Native Representatives, those authorized to speak for tribal entities, who then may become partners in the committee. Initiating this exchange can start with Nipmuc and Abenaki representatives as those tribes were indigenous to this area. The act of tribal sharing will not include the financial burden of maintenance, residence or unilateral reconstruction, but rather is an offering to recognize partnership as guardian conservationist in preserving the Earth and the inequity of land acquisition in the past.

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to petition the state legislature to grant noncitizen permanent residents (Resident Aliens) in the Town of Wendell the ability to vote in all Wendell town meetings, elections, and actions, and to serve on elected and appointed Wendell municipal boards and committees.

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to affirm the Selectboard's intention to designate the Town website, wendellmass.us, as the official posting place for warrants, meeting notices, and other public notices to fulfill the meeting notice requirements of the Open Meeting Law, as well as the Selectboard's intention to continue to post hard copies of same on the Town Offices bulletin board.

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41A, to (1) increase the maximum qualifying gross receipts amount (income allowance) for persons applying for a property tax deferral under said clause from the current limit of \$20,000, as follows: \$32,000 (up from \$30,000) for a single individual who is not the head of household, \$40,000 (up from \$38,000) for a head of household, and \$48,000 (up from \$45,000) for married couples filing a joint income tax return; and (2) decrease the interest rate on taxes deferred under said clause from the statutory rate of 8% to 6.5%, such limits and interest rate to be effective for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2023; or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to declare certain items as surplus, and to trade in or sell surplus equipment, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to apply for, accept, and expend any Federal, State, and private monies, such as Community Development Block Grants, Public Safety Grants, Massachusetts Public Library Construction Funds, etc., or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 30: To transact any other legal business that may come before said meeting, or take any action thereon.

And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting up attested copy thereof at the Wendell Town Office Building, 7 days at least prior to the time of holding said meeting.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this Warrant with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting, as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 24 th day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-three.

J. D. D. { SELECTBOARD

Paul Bond { OF

Gilbert Bond { WENDELL

A true copy. Attest: _____, Constable