

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
MONUMENT MOUNTAIN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL  
AUDITORIUM  
600 STOCKBRIDGE ROAD  
MAY 3, 2025 AT 2:00 PM  
MINUTES**

In pursuance of the foregoing warrant, the inhabitants of the Town of Great Barrington qualified to vote in Town Meetings proceeded to vote at the above named meeting place with the following results. The meeting was duly called to order at 2:00 P.M. by Moderator Michael Wise who welcomed everyone to the Town Meeting. Mr. Wise stated that there was a quorum present and noted the return and service of the warrant. Mr. Wise requested that everyone stand and join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Moderator introduced himself. Mr. Wise reviewed the emergency exit procedures and explained that the meeting was being taped by CTSB for viewing at a later date. The Moderator also asked that cell phones be silenced. He introduced the Town Officials seated on the stage; Town Clerk Josh Risen, Town Accountant Allison Crespo, Interim Town Manager Chris Rembold and Town Counsel David Doneski. He also announced the Selectboard members on stage which were Stephen Bannon, Eric Gabriel, Garfield Reed and Benjamin Elliott and the Finance Committee members which were Philip Orenstein, Milena Cerna, Anne O'Dwyer, Richard Geiler and Madonna Meagher.

The rules of the meeting were explained by Mr. Wise. The meeting will be governed by the Constitution, Massachusetts General Laws, the Bylaws of the Town of Great Barrington and Town Meeting Time will be a reference guide. Only registered voters of the town may participate in the meeting unless permission is granted by the moderator. He did state that several non-voters did receive his permission to attend and speak tonight on certain articles. Nonresidents and Nonvoters may attend the meeting and are to be seated in the front two rows as a new procedure, which has been adopted because of a complaint that was filed during the last Special Town Meeting. All motions and amendments must be made in writing and any motion to reconsider must be made within 15 minutes of the announced vote. All questions are to be addressed to the moderator who will ask the appropriate person to respond. Before anyone addresses the Town Meeting, he/she must proceed to the microphone and when recognized by the moderator state their name and address. Mr. Wise requested that voters speak only once per motion and limit their comments to three minutes. Comments should be limited to the merits of the motion and should not be repeated. Each voter has received a warrant, a orange card and a packet of yes/no cards. Mr. Wise will instruct voters when these are to be used and what color to use if needed. He noted that a counter has been assigned to each section of the auditorium and they will report their numbers at the microphone when ready. The Moderator reviewed the different voting methods and procedures that would occur for all the business that evening.

A motion was made by someone in the audience and seconded by another voter to dispense with the reading of the warrant.

The Moderator requested to entertain a procedural motion that he be allowed to declare a 2/3rds vote which is authorized by Massachusetts General Law. A motion was made by someone in the audience and seconded by Karen Smith.

**VOTED AND PASSED AT 2:08 PM**

Mr. Wise introduced Interim Town Manager Chris Rembold who went through the Financial Overview of the budget on a slideshow.

**ARTICLE 1:** (majority)

On a motion by Madonna Meagher and seconded by Karen Smith that the Town set the FY2026 spending limits for Town revolving funds as set forth in the Warrant, namely, Plumbing Inspections \$25,000, Wiring Inspections \$65,000, Gas Inspections \$20,000, Parks and Recreation \$20,000, Council on Aging Transportation \$150,000, and Electric vehicle charging stations \$20,000.

**VOTED AND PASSED AT 2:18 PM**

**ARTICLE 2:** (majority)

On a motion by Madonna Meagher and seconded by Karen Smith, that the Town fix the salaries of all elected officials for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 as indicated in the Warrant, namely, Selectboard \$24,500 total (\$4,900 per Selectboard member).

**VOTED AND PASSED AT 2:19 PM**

**ARTICLE 3:** (majority)

On a motion by Richard Geiler and seconded by Karen Smith, that the Town appropriate sums of money and transfer them to the FY26 Operating Budget as follows:

\$20,000 from the Conservation Fund to the FY26 operating budget of the Conservation Commission; and,

\$21,666 from the Town's Expendable Trust for Cemetery Perpetual Care and \$18,334 from the Town's Sale of Cemetery Lots fund to the FY26 operating budget of the Buildings and Grounds division of the Department of Public Works.

**VOTED AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AT 2:20 PM**

**ARTICLE 4:** (majority)

On a motion by Richard Geiler and seconded by Philip Orenstein, that the Town raise and appropriate such sums of money necessary for the operation of departments in the Town for the ensuing fiscal year for the purposes outlined below.

**General Government**

Town Manager/Selectboard	\$ 460,150
Finance Committee/Reserve Fund	150,200
Financial Coordinator/Town Accountant	212,110
Technology	356,195
Assessors' Office	202,840
Treasurer/Collector	280,396
Human Resources	82,508
Town Clerk/Elections	157,410
Conservation	27,555
Planning Board	6,360
Zoning Board of Appeals	0
Office of Planning/Community Development	169,095

(\*reduced by 20K from \$47,255, because article 3 passed)

**Public Safety**

Police Department	2,192,540
Fire Department	909,669
Communications/Emergency Management	24,461
Building Inspector	237,400
Animal Control	12,000

**Department of Public Works**

Buildings and Grounds	994,603
Highway	1,830,539
Transfer Station	156,921

(\*reduced by 40K from \$1,034,603, because article 3 passed)

**Cultural/Recreation/Human Services**

Health Department	147,246
Human Services	0
Council on Aging	240,817
Veterans' Affairs	184,742
Libraries	649,382
Parks & Recreation	119,600
Various Boards/Commissions	21,000
Celebrations & Events	7,000

**Miscellaneous**

Insurance	1,906,035
Debt Service	3,598,685

Retirement	<u>1,295,285</u>
<b>Total General Fund Budget</b>	<b>\$ 16,632,744</b>

The Moderator stated he would go line by line and asked for the voters to call out hold if they wanted to discuss items. There were holds on two budget lines (Human Resources and Insurance). The Moderator stated that would hear discussion on the two held items.

There were holds placed on the following items:

Human Resources- James Bailly requested an explanation on the translation services and Interim Town Manager Chris Rembold provided an explanation that the service was for Spanish Translation services.

Insurance – John Breasted spoke on this article asking where liability insurance for lawsuits against the town is included in the budget. Interim Town Manager Chris Rembold responded that the liability insurance is included in the General Insurance Line.

**VOTED AND PASSED AT 2:38 PM**

**ARTICLE 5:** (2/3 majority secret ballot)

On a motion by Richard Geiler and seconded by Anne O’Dwyer that the sum of \$13,079,100 is appropriated to pay costs of undertaking various capital projects and acquiring various items of capital equipment, as follows:

- (i.) Purchasing an all-weather drone for the Police Department at an approximate cost of \$14,500 including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Town raise and appropriate said funds, such appropriation to be subject to a Proposition 2 ½ capital expenditure exclusion.
- (ii.) Purchasing an e-bike for the Police Department at an approximate cost of \$6,000 including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Town raise and appropriate said funds, such appropriation to be subject to a Proposition 2 ½ capital expenditure exclusion.
- (iii.) Purchasing and equipping two new police cruisers at a total cost of approximately \$127,100 including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or any other authority,

and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, such appropriation to be subject to a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion.

- (iv.) Acquiring new radios for the Fire Department, at an approximate cost of \$115,000 including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or any other authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, such appropriation to be subject to a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion.
- (v.) Acquiring a new technology file server and accessories for Town Hall, at an approximate cost of \$22,000 including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Town raise and appropriate said funds, such appropriation to be subject to a Proposition 2 ½ capital expenditure exclusion.
- (vi.) Acquiring a new lawn mower with attachments for the Department of Public Works at an approximate cost of \$12,500, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Town raise and appropriate said funds, such appropriation to be subject to a Proposition 2 ½ capital expenditure exclusion.
- (vii.) Acquiring a new field mower with attachments for the Department of Public Works at an approximate cost of \$35,000, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or any other authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, such appropriation to be subject to a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion.
- (viii.) Acquiring construction mats for the for the Department of Public Works at an approximate cost of \$6,400, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Town raise and appropriate said funds, such appropriation to be subject to a Proposition 2 ½ capital expenditure exclusion.
- (ix.) Purchasing and equipping a new dump truck with attachments for the Department of Public Works at an approximate cost of \$400,000, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to

M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or any other authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, such appropriation to be subject to a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion.

- (x.) Purchasing and equipping a new excavator with attachments for the Department of Public Works at an approximate cost of \$250,000, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or any other authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, such appropriation to be subject to a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion.
- (xi.) Purchasing and equipping a new dump truck for the cemetery division of the Department of Public Works at an approximate cost of \$130,000, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Town appropriate funds from the Town's Sale of Cemetery Lots fund.
- (xii.) Purchasing and equipping a new pickup truck with attachments for the Department of Public Works at an approximate cost of \$66,000, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or any other authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, such appropriation to be subject to a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion.
- (xiii.) Purchasing and equipping a new utility van for the Department of Public Works at an approximate cost of \$66,000, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or any other authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, such appropriation to be subject to a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion.
- (xiv.) Acquiring a new transit vehicle at approximate cost of \$20,000, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Town raise and appropriate said funds, such appropriation to be subject to a Proposition 2 ½ capital expenditure exclusion.
- (xv.) making various buildings and grounds improvements, including the Courthouse, Mason Library, and emergency improvements to buildings town-wide, and related architectural, engineering and planning services, at an approximate cost of \$463,000, including the

payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow \$268,000 under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or any other authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, subject to a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion; and that \$195,000 be transferred from available grant funds.

- (xvi.) making various street and bridge improvements at an approximate cost of \$11,005,000, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow \$4,025,000 under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or any other authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, subject to a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion; and that \$6,980,000 be transferred from available grants and from Chapter 90 funds, so-called.
- (xvii.) making parks improvements at an approximate cost of \$332,000, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow \$200,000 under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or any other authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, subject to a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion; that \$25,000 be transferred from Free Cash, and that \$107,000 be transferred from available grant funds.

Provided, however, that any such borrowing authorized by this Vote shall be contingent upon approval, at an election, of a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion, and provided further that any appropriation of funds authorized by this Vote and subject to a capital expenditure exclusion shall be contingent upon approval, at an election, of a Proposition 2 ½ capital expenditure exclusion.

The amounts authorized to be expended by this vote, including by borrowing, are estimates based on information available, and the Town is authorized to expend more for any project and less for another, so long as, in the judgment of the Selectboard, each project to be funded can be completed within the total amount authorized to be expended by this vote.

The Moderator went through all 17 items within the article and asked that voters call out hold for any discussion. Four items had holds. The Moderator then went through each item for discussion on the items.

The following items had holds:

- (i) Ananda Timpane and Police Chief Paul Storti spoke on this item.
- (x) Charles Williamson and DPW Superintendent Joe Aberdale spoke on this item.
- (xvi) Ananda Timpane, Interim Town Manager Chris Rembold and DPW Superintendent Joe Aberdale spoke on this item.
- (xvii) Nora Fernandez and Interim Town Manager Chris Rembold spoke on this item.

Mr. Wise then asked for a vote on all items in the article and stated it would be done through a secret ballot vote using the red yes/no card and that it needed to be a 2/3rds majority.

**VOTED by 2/3rds SECRET BALLOT RESULT ANNOUNCED AT 3:18 PM**  
**YES –266      NO – 41**

**ARTICLE 6:** (majority)

On a motion by Madonna Meagher and seconded by Karen Smith, That the Town appropriate from the receipts of the Wastewater Treatment Plant such sums of money necessary for the operation of the Sewer Division for the ensuing fiscal year for the purposes outlined below.

<b><u>Wastewater Treatment Plant</u></b>	
Salaries	\$570,802
Expenses	\$994,550
Insurance/Benefits	\$291,326
Miscellaneous/Transfers	\$351,053
Debt Service	<u>\$1,014,830</u>
<b>Total Wastewater Treatment Plant Budget</b>	<b>\$3,222,561</b>

**VOTED AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AT 3:08 PM**

**ARTICLE 7:** (majority)

On a motion by Philip Orenstein and seconded by Stephen Bannon, That the sum of \$1,150,000 is appropriated to pay costs of undertaking various capital projects and acquiring capital equipment in and for the Wastewater Department, as follows:

- (i) retaining engineering services at an approximate cost of \$802,000, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation the Town authorize the use of \$802,000 of Retained Earnings in the Sewer Enterprise Fund.

(ii) retaining services for CMOM (Capacity, Management, Operations and Maintenance) and Infiltration/Inflow Mitigation at an approximate cost of \$248,000, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation the Town authorize the use of \$248,000 of Retained Earnings in the Sewer Enterprise Fund.

(iii) rehabilitating and/or replacing various sewers and manholes at an approximate cost of \$100,000, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation the Town authorize the use of \$100,000 of Retained Earnings in the Sewer Enterprise Fund.

**VOTED AND PASSED AT 3:10 PM**

**ARTICLE 8:** (majority)

On a motion by Eric Gabriel and seconded by Karen Smith in the audience, That the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Two Million, One Hundred Eighty-Four Thousand, Three Hundred and Thirty-Seven Dollars (\$22,184,337) for the operating assessment, and Twenty-Five Thousand, Two Hundred and Eleven Dollars (\$25,211) for the capital assessment, for a total FY26 assessment of Twenty-Two Million, Two Hundred Nine Thousand, Five Hundred and Forty-Eight Dollars (\$22,209,548) of the Berkshire Hills Regional School District.

School Superintendent Peter Dillon made a presentation on this article.

The following individuals spoke on this article: Charles Williamson, Jan Wojcik, Rich Dohoney and Kate Van Olst.

**VOTED AND PASSED AT 3:31 PM**

**ARTICLE 9:** (majority)

On a motion by Garfield Reed and seconded by someone in the audience, that the Town raise and appropriate \$135,000 to fund the Fiscal Year 2026 tuition and transportation costs for out of district vocational education, in accordance with Chapter 74 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

**VOTED AND PASSED AT 3:32 PM**

Due to an error in how article 9 was drafted, it should have been stated to be raised from free cash, instead of appropriated there was a need to vote to reconsider article 9.

A Motion was made by Interim Town Manager Chris Rembold to reconsider article 9 and seconded by Eric Gabriel at 3:36 PM

**VOTED AND PASSED AT 3:36 PM**

**ARTICLE 9:** (majority)

On a motion by Chris Rembold and seconded by someone in the audience that the Town raise from Free Cash \$135,000 to fund the Fiscal Year 2026 tuition and transportation costs for out of district vocational education, in accordance with Chapter 74 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

**VOTED AND PASSED AT 3:37 PM**

**ARTICLE 10:** (majority)

On a motion by Benjamin Elliot and seconded by Garfield Reed, that the Town appropriate Three Hundred Four Thousand, Nine Hundred Nine Dollars and eleven cents (\$304,909.11) from Free Cash to support the operation of the Southern Berkshire Ambulance service.

Karen Smith asked how the funds would be used and Jim Santos from the Board of Directors of the Southern Berkshire Ambulance responded to her question by stating that staffing costs are where the funds would be going.

**VOTED AND PASSED AT 3:32 PM**

**ARTICLE 11:** (majority)

On a motion by Milena Cerna and seconded by Anne O'Dwyer, that the Town appropriate \$20,000 from Free Cash to deposit into the Town's Unemployment Trust Fund.

**VOTED AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AT 3:38 PM**

**ARTICLE 12:** (majority)

On a motion by Philip Orenstein and seconded by someone in the audience, that the Town appropriate and transfer Seventy-One Thousand, Seven Hundred Forty-Seven Dollars and fourteen cents (\$71,747.14) from the Short Term Rental Special Revenue Fund to the Great Barrington Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

**VOTED AND PASSED AT 3:39 PM**

**ARTICLE 13:** (2/3 majority secret ballot)

On a motion by Stephen Bannon and seconded by someone in the audience, that the Town appropriate \$3,000,000 for the payment of costs related to the construction and installation of a

temporary bridge on Brookside Road over the Housatonic River, and/or for the construction of temporary emergency services facilities on or near Brookside Road, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or any other authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, provided, however, that any such borrowing shall be contingent upon approval, at an election, of a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion.

Joe Aberdale the Superintendent of the DPW made a statement on the Brookside Bridge.

The following individuals spoke on this article: Merle Kailas, Paul Isserles, Meredith Smyth, Gregory Lipper, Jim Fagin, Charles Williamson, Police Chief Paul Storti, Jade Madrone and Fire Chief Scott Turner

**VOTED by 2/3rds SECRET BALLOT RESULT ANNOUNCED AT 4:08 PM  
YES –281 NO – 23**

**ARTICLE 14:** (majority)

On a motion by Anne O’Dweyer and seconded by Stephen Bannon, the Town appropriate \$3,931,723 from Free Cash to reduce the tax levy for Fiscal Year 2026.

**VOTED AND PASSED AT 4:04 PM**

**ARTICLE 15:** (4/5 majority)

On a motion by Richard Geiler and seconded by Karen Smith that the Town authorize the payment of prior fiscal year(s) invoices from the FY25 operating budgets of the Selectboard, Technology, Police and Insurance Departments, in the amounts set forth below.

**Building Inspector:**

\$ 17,106.00 to Commonwealth of Mass. Account Number: 01241-52000

**DPW:**

\$ 1,250.00 to Hillman Consulting Account Number: 01422-58541  
\$ 279.93 to Housatonic Water Works Company Account Number: 01422-52115  
\$ 84.19 to NAPA Auto Parts Account Number: 01422-52450  
\$ 16.02 to NAPA Auto Parts Account Number: 01422-52450

**Wastewater:**

\$ 200.00 to Lee Police Department Account Number: 60442-53085

**VOTED AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AT 4:06 PM**

**ARTICLE 16:** (majority)

On a motion by Madonna Meagher and seconded by Karen Smith, That the Town hereby rescinds the following amounts that have been authorized to be borrowed by vote of Town Meeting, but which are no longer needed for the purposes for which they were initially approved:

<u>Unused Amount</u>	<u>Date of Approval</u>	<u>Warrant Article</u>	<u>Original Purpose</u>
\$20,300	05/07/2018	4	Various Building Improvements (Dewey Building Carpet)
\$21,000	05/06/2019	7	Various Building Improvements (Town Hall Plumbing)
\$1,677,000	05/06/2019	7	Various Street, Road & Sidewalk Improvements (Division St Bridge)
\$271,027	06/06/2022	5	Various Street & Bridge Improvements (Senior Center Parking Lot)
\$2,000	06/06/2022	5	Various Building Improvements (Ramsdell Library ADA Compliance)
\$12,266	05/01/2023	4	DPW Loader with Attachments
\$8,100	05/01/2023	4	DPW Excavator

**VOTED AND PASSED AT 4:08 PM**

**ARTICLE 17:** (majority)

On a motion by Karen Smith and seconded by someone in the audience, that the Town appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund annual revenues the following amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for committee administrative expenses in FY26 and for payment of debt service and costs related thereto for the Memorial Field improvement project authorized by vote of the June 6, 2022 Annual Town Meeting, and reserve for future appropriation for community preservation projects the following reserve amounts, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

Reserves:

From FY26 revenues for Historic resources reserve	\$67,500
From FY26 revenues for community housing reserve	\$67,500
From FY26 revenues for open space/recreation reserve	\$0

Appropriations:

From FY26 revenues for debt service on Memorial Field project, and costs related thereto	\$55,265
From FY26 revenues for administrative expenses	\$12,000
Balance of FY26 revenues for FY26 budgeted reserve	\$472,735

Karen Smith gave a presentation on the Community Preservation Fund.

**VOTED AND PASSED AT 4:13 PM**

**ARTICLE 18:** (majority)

On a motion by Karen Smith and seconded by someone in the audience, that the Town appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund for FY26 and from the fund balance the following amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>Source of Appropriation</b>	
		<b>FY26 Revenues</b>	<b>Fund Balance</b>
<b><i>AFFORDABLE HOUSING</i></b>			
1 Town – Affordable Housing Trust Fund	\$375,000	\$300,000	\$75,000
2 Marble Block Realty	<u>\$150,000</u>	\$150,000	-
Subtotal, Affordable Housing	\$525,000		
<b><i>HISTORIC RESOURCES</i></b>			
3 Unitarian Universalist Meeting of South Berkshire	\$54,000	-	\$54,000
4 Town – Mason Library clamshell canopy	\$146,000	\$83,935	\$62,065
5 Town – Mason Library exterior sconces	<u>\$49,000</u>	\$49,000	
Subtotal, Historic Resources	\$249,000		
<b><i>OPEN SPACE &amp; RECREATION</i></b>			
6 Berkshire Natural Resources Council – trail	\$24,800	-	\$24,800
7 Town – Park equipment town-wide	<u>\$107,000</u>	\$24,800	\$82,200
Subtotal, Open Space & Recreation	\$131,800		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$905,800</b>	\$905,800	

**VOTED AND PASSED AT 4:15 PM**

**ARTICLE 19:** (majority)

On a motion by Eric Gabriel and seconded by someone in the audience that the Town accept Clause 17D of Section 5 of Chapter 59 of the General Laws, Clause 41D of Section 5 of Chapter 59 of the General Laws, and Clause 22I of Section 5 of Chapter 59 of the General Laws, as set forth in Article 19 of the Warrant for this Town Meeting, with such accepted clauses to be effective for applicable tax exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025.

Karen Smith, Ananda Timpane and Ellen Lahr all asked questions about this article and were responded to by the Assessor Ross Vivori and Interim Town Manager Chris Rembold.

**VOTED AND PASSED AT 4:21 PM**

**ARTICLE 20:**

On a motion by Garfield Reed and seconded by someone in the audience that the Town adopt a new bylaw as Article 2 of chapter 158 of the Town Code, authorizing the Town Treasurer to enter into tax title payment agreements per Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 60, section 62A, as set forth in Article 20 of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

**VOTED AND PASSED AT 4:21 PM**

**ARTICLE 21:** (majority)

On a motion by Benjamin Elliot and seconded by someone in the audience, that the Town accept Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 200A, section 9A, as set forth in Article 21 of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

**VOTED AND PASSED AT 4:22 PM**

**ARTICLE 22:** (majority)

On a motion by Stephen Bannon and seconded by Karen Smith, that the Town increase the license fee for a Common Victualler license from \$25 to \$100, in accordance with Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the General Laws.

**VOTED AND PASSED AT 4:24 PM**

**ARTICLE 23:** (2/3 majority)

On a motion by Malcolm Fick and seconded by Karen Smith, that the Town amend the Zoning Bylaw by deleting existing Section 8.5, Planned Unit Residential Development, in its entirety, deleting existing row A(9), Planned Unit Residential Development, from Section 3.1.4, the Table of Use Regulations, and deleting the definition of Planned Unit Residential Development from Section 11.0; and by inserting a new Section 8.5, to be known as Residential Cluster Development (RCD), and inserting a new row A(9) Residential Cluster Development into Section 3.1.4, the Table of Use Regulations, as set forth in Article 23 of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

Malcolm Fick gave an overview on the process required to pass a Zoning Bylaw.

Jackie Kain gave an explanation of Article 23.

On a motion by Fred Clark which was seconded by someone in the audience to Amend article 23, section 8.5.4 paragraph 5 by deleting in its entirety the phrase, "...and the maximum distance between any two abutting units with a cluster shall be not more than 20 feet."

Planning Board Member Malcolm Fick and Planning Board Member Pedro Rafael Pachano both spoke against Fred Clarks proposed amendment.

Mike Gallerstein, Margaret McTeigue, and Jorge Alcala all gave their opinions on the amendment.

**VOTED THE AMENDMENT FAILED**

Sharon Gregory made a motion, which was seconded by someone in the audience to postpone indefinitely article 23.

**VOTED THE AMENDMENT FAILED**

On action by James Bailly and seconded by someone in the audience a motion to amend section 8.5.2 to state the RCD be permitted by special permit, with the Selectboard designated as the granting authority was made.

Jorge Alcala and Brandee Nelson spoke on the proposed amendment.

**VOTED THE AMENDMENT FAILED**

The Moderator called for a vote on the original Motion pursuant to Article 23 which required a 2/3 Majority vote.

**VOTED 2/3rds MAJORITY AND PASSED AT 4:56 PM**

**ARTICLE 24:** (2/3 majority)

On a motion by Jonathan Hankin and seconded by someone in the audience, that the Town amend the Zoning Bylaw by adding new section 9.15, Campus Overlay District, and revising Section 2.2 and the Zoning Map to list and show the district, as set forth in Article 24 of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

On a motion by Fred Clark which was seconded by someone in the audience to Amend article 24, section 9.15.3 by deleting in its entirety the phrase, “the Planning Board” and replacing it with “the Selectboard”.

The goal of Fred Clark is to have the Selectboard instead of the Planning Board be the Special Permit Granting Authority.

Pedro Rafael Pachano, Jonathan Hankin and Tong Touy spoke against Fred Clarks proposed amendment to article 24.

Selectboard member Eric Gabriel spoke in favor of Fred Clarks proposed amendment to article 24

**VOTED THE AMENDMENT FAILED**

The Moderator asked if there was any additional discussion on the original motion pursuant to article 24.

Kathy Ingram stated that as an abutter she was not aware that the Article 24 was on the warrant.

Kathy Ingram made a motion, which was seconded by someone in the audience to postpone indefinitely article 24.

Pedro Rafael Pachano, Jorge Alcala, and Brandee Nelson spoke against the motion to postpone indefinitely.

Interim Town Manager Chris Rembold gave an explanation of the environmentally protected areas within the proposed Campus Overlay District.

**VOTED THE AMENDMENT FAILED**

The Moderator called for a vote on the original Motion pursuant to Article 24 which required a 2/3 Majority vote.

**VOTED 2/3rds MAJORITY AND PASSED AT 5:20 PM**

**ARTICLE 25:** (2/3 majority)

On a motion by Pedro Rafael Pachano and seconded by someone in the audience, that the Town amend the Sections 8.3.3 and 8.3.4 of the Zoning Bylaw as set forth in Article 25 of the warrant for this Town Meeting.

**VOTED 2/3rds MAJORITY AND PASSED AT 5:22 PM**

**ARTICLE 26:** (2/3 majority)

On a motion by Eric Gabriel and seconded by someone in the audience that the Town authorize the Selectboard to acquire certain easements through all legal means including donation, purchase, or eminent domain, said easements being described as Housatonic Trail Easement 1 and Housatonic Trail Easement 2 as shown on a plan which is on file with the Town Clerk, as described in Article 26 of the Warrant for this Town Meeting; to appropriate \$1,000 from Free Cash for expenses related thereto; and to authorize the Selectboard to take all actions and execute all documents necessary in connection therewith.

**VOTED 2/3rds MAJORITY AND PASSED 5:23 PM**

**ARTICLE 27:** (2/3 majority)

On a motion by Garfield Reed and seconded by someone in the audience, that the Town authorize the Selectboard to acquire certain easements through the Fairgrounds property, being parcel 5 on Assessor's Map 25, through all legal means including donation, purchase, or eminent domain; to authorize the Selectboard to convey or otherwise transfer certain easements or rights-of-way on said property in exchange for the easements to be acquired; all said easement areas illustrated on a plan which is on file with the Town Clerk, as described in Article 27 of the Warrant for this Town Meeting; to appropriate \$10,000 from Free Cash for expenses related thereto; and to authorize the Selectboard to take all actions and execute all documents necessary in connection therewith.

**VOTED 2/3rds MAJORITY AND PASSED AT 5:25 PM**

**ARTICLE 28:** (2/3 majority)

On a motion by Benjamin Elliot and seconded by someone in the audience, that the Town authorize the Selectboard to acquire easements and/or other rights in, over and through certain parcels of land for the purpose of maintaining a secure and public right of way on Division Street in order to allow for the construction of a bridge over the Housatonic River, through all legal means, including donation, purchase and eminent domain, said easement areas and parcels being shown on plans which are on file in the office of the Town Clerk, as described in Article 28 of the Warrant for this Town Meeting; to appropriate \$6,000 from Free Cash for expenses related thereto; and to authorize the Selectboard to take all actions and execute all documents necessary in connection therewith.

**VOTED 2/3rds MAJORITY AND PASSED AT 5:26 PM**

**ARTICLE 29:** (2/3 majority)

On a motion by Stephen Bannon and seconded by someone in the audience, that the Town discontinue as a public way the portion of Ramsdell Road, so-called, as shown on plans on file with the Town Clerk, as described in Article 29 of the Warrant for this Town Meeting; and to transfer the care, custody and control of said discontinued portion from the Selectboard, for public way purposes, to the Selectboard, for general municipal purposes and/or for the purpose of conveyance; and further, to authorize the Selectboard to convey and/or release all the Town's right, title and interest in said discontinued portion of Ramsdell Road on such terms and conditions, and for such consideration, as the Selectboard deems appropriate, and to execute any and all documents to effectuate the intent of this vote.

**VOTED 2/3rds MAJORITY AND PASSED AT 5:27 PM**

Mr. Wise made a motion to dissolve the Annual Town Meeting and it was seconded by someone in the audience.

**MEETING DISSOLVED AT 5:28 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joshua Risen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Joshua Risen  
Town Clerk

**Total Registered Voters: 5,287**

**Total Voters: 340 (6.4%)**