

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPRING ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021 - 7:00 P.M.
Northbridge Middle School
Linwood Avenue**

The meeting was called to order by the Town Moderator, Henry J. Lane at 7:09 at the Northbridge Middle School on Linwood Avenue, in Whitinsville, in Northbridge, Massachusetts. The Moderator declared a quorum with 54 voters in attendance at the time. The Moderator lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Before attending to Town Business, Town Manager Adam Gaudette spoke about the retirement of Police Chief Walter Warchol and presented him with a plaque to honor his 44 years of service to the Town.

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the Warrant. Voted unanimously to dispense with the reading of the Warrant.

ARTICLE 1: 4/5 VOTE REQUIRED DECLARED VOTED UNANIMOUS BY THE MODERATOR

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from the unexpended appropriated FY 21 funds of the Public Works Department – expenses and the Information Systems/Technology Department, - expenses, respectively, the following sums of money and authorize the payment of prior year bills as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

\$13,359.16 to Ridgeway Condominium Association

INFORMATION SYSTEMS:

\$7,306.74 to Gov Connection

ARTICLE 2:

DECLARED VOTED BY THE MODERATOR

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to amend the votes taken under Article 3 of the 2020 Spring Session of the Annual Town Meeting (June 23, 2020), and under Article 1 of the 2020 Fall Session of the Annual Town Meeting (October 27, 2020), appropriations and transfers under the Omnibus Budget Article as follows:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

ASSESSORS:

Line 5B: Assessors Expenses

By transferring from Line 5A [Assessors Personnel]

the additional sum of

TOTAL ASSESSORS: \$ 9.800

TOWN CLERK:

Line 8A: Town Clerk Personnel

By transferring from Line 8B [Town Clerk Expenses]

the additional sum of

TOTAL TOWN CLERK: \$ 7,434

TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT: \$	17,234
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PUBLIC SAFETY

Line 14B: Police Expenses

By transferring from Line 14A (Police personnel)

the additional sum of

TOTAL POLICE DEPARTMENT: \$10,000

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Line 15B: Fire Expenses

By transferring from Line 26B (Veterans Services Expenses)

the additional sum of

\$ 20,000

TOTAL FIRE DEPARTMENT: \$ 20,000**TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY: \$ 30,000****EDUCATION****SCHOOL DEPARTMENT:**

Line 20B: Trade School

By transferring from the undesignated fund balance (free cash)

the additional sum of

\$35,000

TOTAL TRADE SCHOOL: \$35,000**TOTAL EDUCATION: \$35,000****PUBLIC WORKS****DPW HIGHWAY DIVISION:**

Line 21C: Snow/Ice Personnel

By transferring from the undesignated fund balance (free cash)

the additional sum of

\$300,000

TOTAL SNOW/ICE: \$300,000**TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS: \$300,000****NON-DEPARTMENTAL****MEDICARE:**

Line 36: Medicare

By transferring from Non-Departmental (Employee Insurance Benefits)

the additional sum of

\$50,000

TOTAL MEDICARE: \$50,000**PROPERTY & LIABILITY:**

Line 42: Property & Liability

By transferring from the undesignated fund balance (free cash)

the additional sum of

\$35,000

TOTAL PROPERTY & LIABILITY: \$35,000**TOTAL NON-DEPARTMENTAL: \$85,000****TOTAL ARTICLE 2: \$467,234****ARTICLE 3:**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds in the Treasury and/or transfer from the Health Insurance Stabilization Fund such sums of money, not to exceed **\$48,991,891** to defray the necessary and usual expenses of the several departments of the Town for FY 2022, beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 as follows:

LINE # ACCOUNT NAME	FY 21 Approved	FY 22 Recommended
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE		
1 SELECTMEN		
1A Personnel	5,150	5,150
By allocating \$1,150 to the Chairman and \$1,000 to each of the other 4 Selectmen		
1B Expenses	100,260	100,260
Total Selectmen	105,410	105,410

2 TOWN MANAGER		
2A Personnel	313,225	316,406
2B Expenses	24,966	24,966
Total Town Manager	338,191	341,372
3 FINANCE COMMITTEE		
3B Expenses	6,275	6,275
Total Finance Committee	6,275	6,275
4 TOWN ACCOUNTANT		
4A Personnel	132,972	137,888
4B Expenses	15,380	15,380
Total Town Accountant	148,352	153,268
5 ASSESSORS		
5A Personnel	182,950	189,052
5B Expenses	21,603	32,357
Total Assessors	204,553	221,409
6 TREASURER/COLLECTOR		
6A Personnel	171,349	175,800
APPROPRIATE FROM PARKING TICKET RECEIPTS		
6A Personnel	0	0
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE		
6B Expenses	37,800	39,400
Total Treasurer/Collector	209,149	215,200
7 INFORMATION SYSTEMS		
7A Personnel	79,683	80,480
7B Expenses	113,492	117,178
Total Information Systems	193,175	197,658
8 TOWN CLERK/ELECTIONS		
8A Personnel	136,342	121,823
8B Expenses	50,387	36,755
Total Town Clerk/Elections	186,729	158,578
9 CONSERVATION		
9A Personnel	35,405	36,014
APPROPRIATE FROM WETLAND FEES		
9A Personnel	11,500	11,500
9B Expenses	0	0
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE		
9B Expenses	2,522	2,522
Total Conservation	49,427	50,036
10 PLANNING BOARD		
10A Personnel	102,324	103,350
10B Expenses	10,166	10,166
Total Planning Board	112,490	113,516
11 ZONING/APPEALS BOARD		
11A Personnel	9,749	9,850
11B Expenses	6,260	6,260
Total Zoning/Appeals Board	16,009	16,110

12 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

12A Personnel	0	0
12B Expenses	0	0
Total Economic Development	0	0

13 TOWN HALL/CENTRAL SERVICES

13A Personnel	24,000	24,000
13B Expenses	57,825	57,825
Total Town Hall/Central Services	81,825	81,825

DECLARED VOTED BY THE MODERATOR

TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	1,651,585	1,660,657
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PUBLIC SAFETY**RAISE AND APPROPRIATE****14 POLICE**

14A Personnel	2,675,545	2,682,491
14B Expenses	307,525	307,525
Total Police	2,983,070	2,990,016

15 FIRE

15A Personnel	870,575	915,013
15B Expenses	157,350	158,200
Total Fire	1,027,925	1,073,213

APPROPRIATE FROM AMBULANCE RECEIPTS**16 AMBULANCE**

16A Personnel	751,659	770,754
16B Expenses	116,000	116,000
Total Ambulance	867,659	886,754

RAISE AND APPROPRIATE**17 CODE ENFORCEMENT**

17A Personnel	151,403	152,955
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APPROPRIATE FROM WEIGHTS AND MEASURES RESERVE ACCOUNT

17A Personnel	5,000	5,000
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RAISE AND APPROPRIATE

17B Expenses	10,172	10,172
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APPROPRIATE FROM WEIGHTS AND MEASURES RESERVE ACCOUNT

17B Expenses	1,500	1,500
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Total Code Enforcement	168,075	169,627
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RAISE AND APPROPRIATE**18 CIVIL DEFENSE**

18A Personnel	3,500	3,500
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18B Expenses	11,200	11,200
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Total Civil Defense	14,700	14,700
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DECLARED VOTED BY THE MODERATOR

TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	5,061,429	5,134,310
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**EDUCATION
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE**

20 SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

20	SCHOOL DEPARTMENT	24,254,032	24,739,112
20A	TRANSPORTATION	0	0
20B	TRADE SCHOOL	300,000	300,000
20C	BLACKSTONE REGIONAL	1,849,999	1,935,163

DECLARED VOTED BY THE MODERATOR

TOTAL EDUCATION	26,404,031	26,974,275
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**PUBLIC WORKS
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE**

21 DPW HIGHWAY DIVISION

21A	Personnel	550,957	566,798
21B	Expenses	598,836	598,836
21C	Snow/Ice Personnel	100,000	100,000

Total Highway (Includes Snow & Ice)	1,249,793	1,265,634
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21 DPW FACILITIES DIVISION

21D	Energy and Utilities	0	0
21E	Building Maintenance (non-personnel)	0	0

DECLARED VOTED BY THE MODERATOR

TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	1,249,793	1,265,634
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**BUILDING, PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION COMM.
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE**

21F BUILDING, PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION COMM.

21F	Expenses	0	0
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TOTAL BUILD, PLAN, & CONSTRUCT	0	0
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**HUMAN SERVICES
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE**

22 BOARD OF HEALTH

22A	Personnel	61,594	62,205
22B	Expenses	20,389	22,889

Total Board of Health	81,983	85,094
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23 LANDFILL ANALYSIS

23A	Expenses	15,000	15,000
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Total Landfill Analysis	15,000	15,000
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24 COUNCIL ON AGING

24A	Personnel	163,620	148,717
24B	Expenses	20,508	20,508

Total Council On Aging	184,128	169,225
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25 DISABILITY COMMISSION

25A	Personnel	0	0
25B	Expenses	1,000	1,000

Total Disability Commission	1,000	1,000
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26 VETERANS

26A Personnel	0	0
26B Expenses	213,549	200,065

Total Veterans	213,549	200,065
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DECLARED VOTED BY THE MODERATOR

TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	495,660	470,384
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**CULTURE & RECREATION
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE****27 LIBRARY**

27A Personnel	222,700	226,098
27B Expenses	29,308	29,308

Total Library	252,008	255,406
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28 RECREATION

28A Personnel	0	0
28B Expenses	12,000	12,000
28C Youth League Equipment	0	0

Total Recreation	12,000	12,000
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29 HISTORICAL COMMISSION

29A Expenses	500	500
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Total Historical Commission	500	500
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30 MEMORIALS

30A Soldiers Memorials	15,000	15,000
30B Veterans Celebrations	1,900	1,900

Total Memorials	16,900	16,900
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31 RECYCLING

31A Personnel	0	0
31B Expenses	7,500	7,500

Total Recycling	7,500	7,500
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DECLARED VOTED BY THE MODERATOR

TOTAL CULTURE & RECREATION	288,908	292,306
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DEBT SERVICE**RAISE AND APPROPRIATE**

32 Debt Principal	2,392,000	2,392,000
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APPROPRIATE FROM RECEIPTS RESERVED - TITLE V

32 Debt Principal	4,687	4,687
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RAISE AND APPROPRIATE

33 Debt Interest	1,123,911	1,123,911
34 Short Term Interest	20,000	20,000
35 BVRS Debt	70,555	70,555

DECLARED VOTED BY THE MODERATOR

TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	3,611,153	3,611,153
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NON-DEPARTMENTAL**RAISE AND APPROPRIATE**

36 Medicare	345,000	345,000
37 Life Insurance	10,000	10,000
38 Retirement System	1,973,746	1,978,731
39 Workers' Compensation	200,000	200,000
40 Unemployment Comp.	131,300	131,300

41 Employee Ins. Benefits	5,437,239	5,804,729
APPROPRIATE FROM AVAILABLE FUNDS [FREE CASH]		
41 Employee Ins. Benefits	650,000	500,000
APPROPRIATE FROM OVERLAY SURPLUS		
41 Employee Ins. Benefits	200,000	200,000
APPROPRIATE FROM HEALTH INSURANCE STABILIZATION		
41 Employee Ins. Benefits	0	0
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE		
42 Property & Liability Ins.	326,162	326,162
43 Reserve for Wage Adj.	12,500	12,500
44 Stabilization Fund	0	0
45 Reserve Fund	50,000	50,000
46 Retirement Benefits	24,750	24,750
DECLARED VOTED BY THE MODERATOR		
TOTAL NON-DEPARTMENTAL	9,360,697	9,583,172
TOTAL ARTICLE 3		
	\$ 48,123,256	\$ 48,991,891

ARTICLE 4:

DECLARED VOTED BY THE MODERATOR

Moved and seconded that that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,939,462 for expenses and debt service to operate the Sewer Enterprise Operation of the Department of Public Works for FY 2022, said sum to be offset by the sum of \$1,939,462 from betterments and other revenues received by the Sewer Enterprise Fund during Fiscal Year 2022, said appropriations to be used for the following purposes:

Wages and Salaries	\$ 437,084
Expenses	\$ 986,960
Interest on long term debt	\$ 48,858
Sewer maturing principal	\$ 223,000
Total:	\$1,695,902;

and further vote to transfer \$243,560 from said \$1,939,462 to the General Fund as reimbursement for shared costs and fringe benefits.

ARTICLE 5:

DECLARED VOTED BY THE MODERATOR

Moved and seconded that that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,693,843 for expenses and debt service to operate the Water Enterprise Operation of the Department of Public Works for FY 2022, said sum to be offset by the sum of \$1,693,843 from revenues received by the Water Enterprise Fund during Fiscal Year 2022, said appropriation to be used for the following purposes:

Wages and Salaries	\$ 26,619
Expenses	\$1,593,151
Interest on long term debt	\$ 7,975
Water maturing principal	\$ 35,000
Total:	\$1,662,745;

and further vote to transfer \$ 31,098 from said \$1,693,843 to the General Fund as reimbursement for shared costs and fringe benefits.

ARTICLE 6:

DECLARED VOTED BY THE MODERATOR

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$467,888 and such additional funds as may become available from the Commonwealth's Department of Transportation, Chapter 90 Bond Issue proceeds, to be used by the Department of Public Works for the repair and maintenance of Town roads in conformance with MGL and further to see if the Town will vote to meet said appropriation by borrowing and to authorize the Treasurer/Collector, with approval of the Board of Selectmen, to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor in anticipation of the receipt of said State Aid.

ARTICLE 7:**DECLARED VOTED BY THE MODERATOR**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to authorize the Treasurer/Collector to enter into a compensating balance agreement or agreements for FY 2022, pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53F of the M.G.L.

ARTICLE 8:**DECLARED VOTED BY THE MODERATOR**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to set the FY22 spending limits for the Town's revolving funds under section 5-113 of the Northbridge Code as follows:

Program or Purpose	FY 2022 Spending Limit
Playgrounds and Recreation	\$20,000
Food Health and Safety	\$25,000
Compost Site	\$10,000

ARTICLE 9:**DECLARED VOTED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE MODERATOR**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$44,373 from the Pine Grove Cemetery Trust to fund operations of the Pine Grove Cemetery for FY 2022 beginning July 1, 2021 and ending on June 30, 2022, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Director of Public Works.

ARTICLE 10:**DECLARED VOTED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE MODERATOR**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to reserve for future appropriation from the Community Preservation Fund annual revenues, the amounts of money recommended by the Northbridge Community Preservation Committee for community preservation projects and other expenses for the Fiscal Year 2022, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation as follows:

Reserves:

- a. From FY 2022 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve – the sum of \$ 23,800
- b. From FY 2022 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve – the sum of \$ 23,800
- c. From FY 2022 estimated revenues for Open Space & Recreation Reserve – the sum of \$ 23,800
- d. From FY 2022 estimated revenues for Budgeted Reserve – the sum of \$154,700

ARTICLE 11:**DECLARED VOTED BY THE MODERATOR**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$11,900 from the Community Preservation Fund reserves to the Northbridge Community Preservation Committee for expenses associated with the implementation of the Community Preservation Act, including but not limited to clerical assistance, office supplies, property surveys, appraisals, attorney fees, and other professional services, recording fees, printing and all other necessary and proper expenses for the Fiscal Year 2022.

ARTICLE 12:**DECLARED VOTED BY THE MODERATOR**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash), the sum of \$25,000 to comply with the Immediate Response Action Plan submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection for activities at the Quaker Street Landfill.

ARTICLE 13:**DECLARED VOTED BY THE MODERATOR**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from the Retained Earnings Account of the Sewer Enterprise Fund, to be expended under the direction of the Director of Public Works, a) the amount of \$150,000 for the purpose of funding work recommended as a result of the Town's Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) and infiltration & inflow reports for the multi-year program to make physical improvements to the Town's sewer collection system, including the sealing/replacement of leaking manhole structures and relining/replacement of deficient/cracked/broken sewer lines; and b) the amount of \$30,868 for the purpose of undertaking Building Envelope Weatherization Repairs and Upgrades at the Wastewater Treatment Plant facilities.

ARTICLE 14:**DECLARED VOTED BY THE MODERATOR**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from the Town Building Maintenance Fund, established pursuant to Chapter 438 of the Acts of 2012, for maintenance of Town-owned buildings and facilities in Fiscal Year 2022, the following sums of money: \$15,000 for the Town's Green Communities Energy Efficiency Projects Application; \$14,460 for Building Envelope Weatherization Repairs and Upgrades at the Senior Center Building, \$8,000 for ADA-compliant door and entryway upgrades at the Whitinsville Social Library, \$7,500 to replace the carpeting of the ground floor at Town

Hall, and \$9,500 to make HVAC Upgrades for the IT Director's Office on the top floor of Town Hall.

ARTICLE 15: **DECLARED VOTED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE MODERATOR**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from the Ambulance Receipts Account, to be expended under the direction of the Fire Chief, the amount of \$140,000 for the purpose of funding the remounting of a new chassis and refurbishing the box/body on Town Ambulance No. 2.

ARTICLE 16: **DECLARED VOTED BY THE MODERATOR**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from the Pine Grove Cemetery Trust, for cemetery maintenance projects, the following sums of money: \$10,000 for Tree and Stump Removal; \$14,232 for Building Envelope Weatherization Repairs and Upgrades, and \$20,000 to make Cemetery Road Improvements; said funds to be expended under the direction of the Director of Public Works.

ARTICLE 17: **DECLARED VOTED BY THE MODERATOR**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to fund the capital projects shown below by appropriating and transferring the total sum of \$1,070,680 from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) as follows:

<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Northbridge Elementary School Reuse Study	BPCC	\$75,000
Plotter/Scanner/Printer for Town Hall Annex	Town Hall Annex	\$10,000
Senior Center Parking Lot Reclamation	Council on Aging	\$65,000
Town-Wide Sidewalk Maintenance Program	Public Works	\$25,000
Pavement Maintenance Program	Public Works	\$200,000
Linwood Ave Guardrail Replacement	Public Works	\$27,000
Bombardier Sidewalk Blower Attachment	Public Works	\$26,000
Heavy Duty Dump Truck with Plow and Spreader	Public Works	\$220,000
Replace 60 Scott Air Bottles	Fire Department	\$78,000
Interior Painting	Library	\$20,000
Building Envelope Weatherization	Library	\$21,960
Building Envelope Weatherization	Police Department	\$27,227
Sewer Connection and Drainage Design	Police Department	\$65,000
Linwood Playground Basketball Court Upgrades	Parks & Recreation	\$77,031
Town Hall Parking Lot Reclamation	Town Hall/DPW	\$35,000
Building Envelope Weatherization	Town Hall/DPW	<u>\$98,462</u>
TOTAL		\$1,070,680

ARTICLE 18: **DECLARED VOTED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE MODERATOR**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) the following sums of money to be expended under the direction of the School Committee: \$125,000 for the demolition and removal of the Northbridge Elementary School modular classrooms, \$100,000 for the replacement and implementation of a new district-wide Student Information System, and \$30,000 for additional security cameras at Northbridge Middle School and Northbridge High School.

ARTICLE 19: **DECLARED VOTED BY THE MODERATOR**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to amend Chapter 3 of the Northbridge Code, Town Meetings, § 3-109, Method of voting, to provide for the use of electronic voting systems, by deleting the existing text and inserting the following new text in its place:

§ 3-109 Method of voting.

[Amended 10-24-2006 ATM, Art. 23; 10-25-2011 ATM, Art. 7; 5-1-2018 ATM, Art. 24]

Votes on all motions, including motions requiring a two-thirds or greater majority, may be taken in the first instance by a voice vote or by the use of an electronic voting system, at the Moderator's discretion. Following a voice vote, if the Moderator is in doubt, he may call for the use of an electronic voting system, or a standing vote. If the vote as declared by the Moderator is immediately challenged by seven (7) or more voters rising in their place for such purpose, the vote may be retaken electronically or be taken by a "yes" or "no" ballot. VOTED by ballot shall be taken in the first instance if requested by at least seven (7) voters present. If the electronic voting system is unavailable for any reason, all other voting methods will be used as stated above.

ARTICLE 20:

DECLARED VOTED BY THE MODERATOR

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer the custody, care and control of the Northbridge Elementary School building at 30 Cross Street from the Northbridge School Committee to the Board of Selectmen, for general municipal purposes, including the leasing of all or a portion thereof.

ARTICLE 21:

MOVED AND SECONDED TO PASS OVER

DECLARED VOTED BY THE MODERATOR

To see if the Town will vote to create and establish a Conservation Fund pursuant to MGL Chapter 40, Section 8C.

ARTICLE 22:

DECLARED VOTED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE MODERATOR

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash), the sum of \$100,000 for deposit into the Stabilization Fund.

Action having been completed on all Articles on the Warrant for the Spring Annual Town Meeting, a motion was made and seconded to dissolve the Warrant and adjourn the Town Meeting.

Voted unanimously at 8:47 p.m. to dissolve the Warrant and adjourn the Spring Annual Town Meeting.

A TRUE COPY

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda B. Zywiec".

Linda B. Zywiec, CMC
Town Clerk