

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE
WARRANT FOR SPRING ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TRANSACTION OF TOWN BUSINESS
TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024 - 7:00 P.M.**

WORCESTER, ss:

To any Constable of the Town of Northbridge in said County,

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify the Inhabitants of the Town of Northbridge, qualified to vote in Town elections and Town affairs, to meet in the Northbridge High School on Linwood Avenue, in Whitinsville, in said Northbridge, Massachusetts, on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 7:00 o'clock P.M., then and there to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1: (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds in the Treasury and/or transfer from the unexpended appropriated funds of one or more of the departments of the Town the following sums of money and authorize the payment of prior year bills; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 2: (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the votes taken under Article 3 of the 2023 Spring Session of the Annual Town Meeting (May 2, 2023), and under Article 2 of the 2023 Fall Session of the Annual Town Meeting (October 24, 2023), appropriations and transfers under the Omnibus Budget Article; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 3: (Finance Committee)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds in the Treasury and/or transfer from the Pine Grove Cemetery Fund such sums of money, not to exceed **\$54,532,426** to defray the necessary and usual expenses of the several departments of the Town for FY 2025, beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 4: (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from the Retained Earnings Account of the Sewer Enterprise Fund a sum of money to operate the Sewer Enterprise Operation of the Department of Public Works for FY 2025; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 5: (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from the Retained Earnings Account of the Water Enterprise Fund a sum of money to operate the Water Enterprise Operation of the Department of Public Works for FY 2025; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 6: (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money 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; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 7: (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer/Collector to enter into a compensating balance agreement or agreements for FY 2025, pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53F of the M.G.L.; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 8: (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to set the FY 2025 spending limits for the Town's revolving funds under section 5-113 of the Northbridge Code as follows:

Program or Purpose	FY 2025 Spending Limit
Playgrounds and Recreation	\$20,000
Food Health and Safety	\$25,000
Compost Site	\$10,000

or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 9: (Community Preservation Committee)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or 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 2025, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 10: (Community Preservation Committee)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money 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 2025; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 11: (Community Preservation Committee)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund revenues the following sums of money for the following projects recommended by the Community Preservation Committee:

\$50,000 from the Historic Resources Reserve for an architectural and structural assessment of the Fletcher Homestead;

\$13,500 from the Historic Resources Reserve for replacement of the boiler at the Fletcher Homestead;

or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 12: (Community Preservation Committee)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund revenues the following sums of money for debt service payments for the Castle Hill Farm acquisition, as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee:

\$126,436 from the Community Preservation Unreserved Fund for fiscal year 2024 debt service;

\$131,200 from the Community Preservation Unreserved Fund for fiscal year 2025 debt service;

or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 13: (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$55,000 from the unexpended balances of the Pine Grove Cemetery Accounts XXXXXX for the following cemetery maintenance projects: \$10,000 for tree and stump removal; \$20,000 to make cemetery road improvements; and \$25,000 for lawn tractors; said sum to be expended under the direction of the Director of Public Works; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 14: (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$499,990.90, which includes \$378,547 from the Retained Earnings Account of the Sewer Enterprise Fund, and \$121,452.90 from the unexpended balances of the following sewer capital accounts:

<u>Account #</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>
60003050-530000	Siphon #2	\$ 783.37
60000404-589004	Whitinsville Interceptor	\$2,881.47
60001011-589004	D&C Repairs	\$ 349.63
60001513-589101	Sutton Street Sewer	\$69,612.90
60001322-585342	Bldg. Weatherization	\$ 146.70
60001520-589004	WWTP Facility Upgrade	\$44,227.00
60003050-530000	Inspection Camera	\$ 3,451.83
TOTAL		\$121,452.90

to be expended under the direction of the Director of Public Works for the following purposes: the sum of \$149,999.90 for 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 the sum of \$350,000 to complete the SCADA system upgrades; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 15: (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$104,946 from the Retained Earnings Account of the Water Enterprise Fund, for the purpose of replacing nine (9) fire hydrants at the cost of \$60,000 and for the purpose of replacing the Church Avenue water main at the cost of \$44,946; to be expended under the direction of the Director of Public Works; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 16: (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to fund the capital projects shown below by appropriating and transferring the total sum of \$1,411,100 from the undesignated fund balance (free cash);

<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Real Property Valuation	Assessors	\$ 5,000
Perimeter Fencing at Plummers Place	Council on Aging	\$ 40,000
Green Communities Match	Town Planner/DPW	\$ 25,000
Leaf Vacuum	Public Works	\$ 60,000
Trackless Sidewalk Tracker	Public Works	\$225,000
Sidewalk Maintenance	Public Works	\$ 25,000
Pavement Maintenance	Public Works	\$200,000
Repaving of Riverdale Cemetery Roads	Public Works	\$ 19,000
Quaker Street Guardrail Replacement	Public Works	\$ 9,000
Town Hall Parking Lot Reclamation (Add'l Funds)	Public Works	\$ 20,000
School Street Guardrail Replacement	Public Works	\$ 15,000
Environmental Study Sutton St/Gendron	Public Works	\$ 50,000
Upton Street – Engineering & Repairs	Public Works	\$ 75,000
Repaving of Church Ave	Public Works	\$100,000
Purchase New Ambulance	Fire Department	\$450,000
Repair Library Walkway	Library	\$ 25,000

Skatepark Upgrades	Playground/Recreation	\$ 32,500
Purchase 23 Department Tasers	Police Department	\$ 5,600
UST Removal (Additional Funds)	Police Department	\$ 10,000
Town Hall – Selectmen’s Room – AV Equipment	Facilities	\$ 20,000
TOTAL:		\$1,411,100

or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 17: (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer the following unexpended sums from appropriations of prior years for the purposes set forth below:

<u>Account #</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>
01022319-585343	NES Reuse Study	\$11,486.97
01022319-585353	Field Mower	\$15,420.06
01022319-585009	Hot Box Trailer	\$ 419.00
01022023-585373	Park Christmas Trees	\$17,052.80
01022023-585374	WWTP Brush Removal	\$ 1,300.00
01022023-585376	Linwood Guardrail	\$ 4,263.75
01022217-585012	Replace FD Air Bottles	\$13,060.00
01022319-585355	FD UST Removal	\$ 750.00
01022023-585358	Library Gas Conversion	\$27,118.00
01021915-585313	PD Sidewalk Repairs	\$12,470.00
01021915-585314	Town Hall Sign Board	\$ 5,656.76
01021915-585315	Town Manager Vehicle	\$ 4,232.73
01022318-585833	Replace Intercoms/Clocks	\$11,589.72
01022318-585334	Upgrade Network Switches	\$25,815.00
01022318-585004	Replace Cafeteria Tables	\$11,847.49
01022023-585391	Ride-on Floor Scrubber	\$ 5,867.00
01022023-585393	Middle School Clocks	\$ 225.00
TOTAL		\$168,574.28

\$100,000 to be expended under the direction of the Chief of Police to purchase 23 Police Department Tasers, and \$68,574.28 to be expended jointly by the Fire Chief, Police Chief, and Director of Public Works to replace the Police Department gas pump; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 18: (School Committee and Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$325,286 from the Town Building-Maintenance Fund, established pursuant to Chapter 438 of the Acts of 2012, for Town-owned buildings and facilities maintenance purposes in Fiscal Year 2025 as follows: \$7,000 for Middle School Auditorium Lift; \$22,000 for Middle School Loading Dock Lift Replacement; \$200,000 for Middle School Bathroom Renovations; \$43,286 for Middle School and High School Wireless Access Points Upgrade; \$8,000 to replace the Town Hall Ground Floor Exterior ADA Door; \$33,000 to replace the Town Hall Ground Floor Interior ADA Door; and \$12,000 for the Library Exterior ADA Door; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 19: (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to apply for, accept, and expend Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (“MPLCP”) grant funds, and vote to appropriate or take from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) the sum of \$150,000.00, or any other sum, said sum to be expended by the Town for library assessment, planning, feasibility and/or design if the MPLCP grant is approved; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 20: (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the custody, care and control of the former Rockdale Fire Substation property, located at 2305 Providence Road and shown as parcel 177 on Assessors' Map 22A, from the Board of Selectmen to the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of disposition, whether by sale, lease – in whole or in part – or otherwise; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any and all action necessary to accomplish such disposition; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 21: (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the custody, care and control of the former Northbridge Elementary School property, located at 30 Cross Street and shown as parcel 160 on Assessors' Map 14A, from the Board of Selectmen to the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of disposition, whether by sale, lease – in whole or in part – or otherwise; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any and all action necessary to accomplish such disposition; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 22: (Planning Board)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Northbridge (Bylaws) by adopting a Stormwater Management Bylaw, in the form on file in the office of the Town Clerk, in order to comply with requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 23: (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash), the sum of \$1,000,000 for response action activities associated with the Quaker Street Landfill, including but not limited to testing of water supply wells, in order to comply with the Immediate Response Action Plan submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 24: (Bylaw Review Committee)

To see if the Town will vote to approve amendments to the Code of Northbridge (Bylaws), including grammatical and stylistic changes, and substantive revisions, in accordance with the final report of the Bylaw Review Committee appointed in 2021 pursuant to Section 8-9(b) of the Home Rule Charter, said report being on file with the Town Clerk; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 25: (Town Manager)

To see if the Town will vote to approve the \$10,000,000.00 borrowing authorized by the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District ("District") School Committee on February 15, 2024, and amended by its actions of March 14, 2024, for the purpose of paying costs of roof reconstruction and the replacement to energy efficient rooftop HVAC units at the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School, located at 65 Pleasant Street, Upton, MA, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended at the direction of the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational School Committee; with the understanding that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any Project costs the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District and its member municipalities, and that any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) the MSBA-determined percentage of eligible, approved Project costs, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; and provided that the Town's approval of the borrowing shall be contingent upon the District's ability to secure grant approval from the MSBA; and provided further, however, that the approval of the District's borrowing by this vote shall be subject to and contingent upon an affirmative vote of the Town to exempt its allocable share of the amounts required for the payment of interest and principal on said borrowing from the limitations on taxes imposed by M.G.L. 59, Section 21C (Proposition 2 ½); and that the amount of borrowing authorized by the District shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the District and the MSBA, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 26: (Finance Committee)

To see if the Town will vote to create an Opioid Settlement Revenue Fund, and to transfer to said Fund, from the undesignated fund balance (free cash), a sum of money representing the amount the Town has received from opioid litigation settlements; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 27: (Finance Committee)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or to transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash), a sum of money to the General Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies thereof at the Whitinsville Post Office and the Town Hall Annex, in Whitinsville, all in Precinct 1; the NCTV Cable Studio and the Northbridge Post Office, in Northbridge, all in Precinct 2; the Town Clerk's Office and 1Quickstop, in Whitinsville, all in Precinct 3; and the Veterans Hall (875 Hill Street), in Whitinsville, in Precinct 4; and Shaw's, in Whitinsville, in Precinct 5; twenty-eight (28) days at least before the time and place of meeting aforesaid.

WHEREOF FAIL NOT, and make due return of the warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk at the time and place of said meeting. GIVEN under our hands this 25th day of March in the year Two Thousand Twenty-Four.

SELECTMEN OF NORTHBRIDGE



Russell D. Collins, Chairman



Thomas J. Melia, Vice Chairman



Charles Ampagoomian, Jr., Selectman



Brian M. Paulhus, Selectman

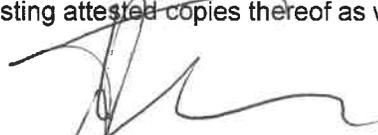


Thomas Begin, Selectman

WORCESTER, SS Northbridge

Date: 4/8/24

By virtue of this warrant I have this day notified the inhabitants of the Town of Northbridge qualified to vote in town elections and town affairs to meet at the time and place and for the purpose stated in said warrant by posting attested copies thereof as within directed.



Constable, Town of Northbridge