

Town of Rockland Warrant

Special Town Meeting
Wednesday November 20, 2024
7:00p.m. Rockland High School



SELECT BOARD

Tiffanie Needham, Chair
Lori Childs, Vice Chair
Michael P. O'Loughlin
Donna Shortall
John J. Ellard, Jr.

MODERATOR

Kevin Henderson

RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE MEETING

EVERY VOTER desiring to speak shall arise and address the Chair, after recognition is obtained, state his name and address and stand while speaking, using the microphone in the front, unless otherwise directed. No motion made by anyone will be in order unless this procedure is followed.

ANY VOTER has the right to speak for or against any Article. A **NON-VOTER** may speak as long as they have the permission of the Moderator. After you speak on an Article, return to your seat. If you have a question on any Article before the house, address the Chair and I will direct the question to the proper person for an answer.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE recommendation is the first and main motion under each Article and under each Budget. Any attempt by a Department Head or anyone to move another figure would be an amendment to the main motion.

A motion to pass the Article over is the same as defeating the Article.

IF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE DISAPPROVES AN ARTICLE it is an automatic motion to **PASS THE ARTICLE OVER** and that will be the first action on the Article.

After the Finance Committee reports on an Article, if they so desire, and the Article is referred to a certain **BOARD, COMMITTEE, or DEPARTMENT HEAD, IT WILL BE THE RULE** that they will be recognized first for their report. **IF I FORGET, REMIND ME.**

A UNANIMOUS VOTE IS BEST AND SAVES TIME. If I do not see or hear any objection, I will declare it, **“A UNANIMOUS VOTE”**.

If an Article requires a 2/3rd or 4/5th vote and it is not **UNANIMOUS**, IT IS THE Moderator's responsibility to see that a vote is taken.

IF A HAND VOTE is immediately questioned by seven (7) or more voters who stand to question the **VOTE**; it will be counted by the Tellers.

ARTICLE III SECTION 10 OF THE TOWN BY-LAWS STATES:

NO VOTE SHALL BE RECONSIDERED except after the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the voters present and voting on a motion to reconsider such vote. Any voter may move to reconsider except that no motion to reconsider shall be made by any adjourned session of the same meeting unless he has given notice of his intention to move reconsideration at the session of the meeting at which the vote was passed. A vote shall not be reconsidered a second time or after a motion to reconsider has failed to pass.

TOWN BY-LAW ARTICLE II

SECTION 4. All reports, motions, and resolutions Requested for the consideration of the meeting involving the expenditure of money shall be in writing and other reports, motions or resolutions shall be reduced to writing if the Moderator so directs.

TOWN CHARTER

SECTION 3.06. All action taken at any and all Town Meetings shall be only upon those items contained in the Warrant for said Town Meeting and all articles in the Warrant shall be acted upon in order unless otherwise voted at any such Town Meeting, and printed copies of each such Warrant, with the recommendations of the Finance Committee is hereinafter set forth, shall be furnished to the voters of the Town in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.02 (a) (iv) Article II of this Charter.

Kevin T. Henderson, Town Moderator

MUNICIPAL FINANCE TERMINOLOGY

The following terms are frequently used in the Annual Town Warrant and at Town Meetings. In order to provide everyone with a better understanding of the meaning, the following definitions are provided.

RAISE AND APPROPRIATE:

The amount allowable by General Law to be raised for annual appropriations based on Property Tax Levy Limits and estimated local and state receipts.

AVAILABLE FUNDS:

Available Funds include Undesignated Fund Balance in the General Fund and Unreserved Fund Balance in the Water and Sewer Funds as well as Overlay Surplus and the Host Community Trust Fund Balance.

UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE: (often referred to as “Free Cash”)

Fund Balance is the amount certified annually by the State Bureau of Accounts by deducting from surplus revenue all uncollected taxes for prior years. This fund may be used by a vote for the Town Meeting.

OVERLAY:

The overlay is the amount raised by the Assessors in excess of appropriations and other charges for the purpose of creating a fund to cover abatements granted and avoiding fractions.

OVERLAY SURPLUS:

This is the accumulated amount of the Overlay for various years not used or required to be held in the specific Overlay Account for a given year, certified by the Board of Assessor, and may be used by a vote of the Town.

RESERVE FUND:

This fund is established by the votes at an Annual Town Meeting only and may be composed of an appropriation (not exceeding 5% of the tax levy of the preceding year). It is available throughout the year by vote of the Finance Committee for Unexpected and/or Extraordinary expenditures.

STABILIZATION FUND:

This is a fund created to provide a reserve. Appropriations from the Stabilization funds may be made at an Annual Town Meeting by a two-thirds vote for any lawful purpose.

CHERRY SHEET:

Named for the cherry-colored paper on which the Massachusetts Commission of Corporations and Taxation traditionally has printed it. The cherry sheet carries the state aid figures that must be used by the Assessors in determining the amount to be raised by taxation.

It lists the amounts of county tax and state assessments, as well as the established tax distributions from the General Fund, reimbursements, agency funds and the Sales and Use Taxes.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING				
NOVEMBER 20, 2024				
LIST OF ARTICLES				
Art. #	Department	Subject	Amount	Funding Source
1.	School Department	Increase FY25 School Dept. Budget	\$192,621	State Aid
2.	Select Board	Correct Typographic Error to Salary Line	\$2,371.25	Raise & Appropriate
3.	Community Preservation Act Committee	GAR War Sketchbook Restoration and Digitalization	\$10,728	Community Preservation Act
4.	Community Preservation Act Committee	Tramp House Phase 3 Restoration	\$17,600	Community Preservation Act
5.	Community Preservation Act Committee	Headstone Restoration at Old Town Cemetery	\$60,000	Community Preservation Act
6.	Community Preservation Act Committee	Additional Funding for ADA Park at Union & Water Streets	\$75,000	Community Preservation Act
7.	Abington & Rockland Joint Water Works	Generator Repairs	\$100,000	ARJWW Capital Stabilization Fund
8.	Sewer Department	Increase Revolving Fund Spending Limits	\$500,000	Sewer Department Revolving Funds
9.	South Shore Regional Vocational Technical School	Amend Regional Agreement	N/A	N/A
10.	Police Department	Plymouth County Outreach Program Dues	\$1,000	Opioid Settlement Special Purpose Stabilization Fund
11.	Recreation	Reappropriate Article # 34 from the 5/6/2024 Annual Town Meeting	\$500,000	Prior Free Cash Certification

ARTICLE # 1

Will the Town vote to raise and appropriate, borrow and/or transfer from available funds the sum of One Hundred Ninety-Two Thousand Six-Hundred Twenty-One Dollars (\$192,621.00), to increase the FY25 Rockland Public School Budget as follows, or take any other action relative thereto:

300 - Education	FY25 Original	FY25 Revised
Rockland Public Schools	\$30,731,362.07	\$30,923,983.07

Emergency: This additional funding was not included in initial revenue estimates but is needed to help to stabilize the FY25 School Department Budget.

Requested by: School Committee

Approval Recommended by: School Committee, Select Board, Finance Committee

Funding Source: State Aid

ARTICLE # 2

Will the Town vote to raise and appropriate, borrow and/or transfer from available funds the sum of Two Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-One Dollars and Twenty-Five Cents (\$2,371.25) to correct the FY25 salary for the Assistant Town Administrator as follows, or take any other action relative thereto:

122 - Select Board		FY25 Original	FY25 Corrected
0112251 511038	Assistant Town Administrator	\$110,378.66	\$112,749.91

Emergency: This appropriation is necessary to correct a typographic error in the budget.

Requested by: Town Accountant

Approval Recommended by: Select Board, Finance Committee

Funding Source: Raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds

ARTICLE # 3

Will the Town vote to approve and expend, from the Community Preservation Fund, the sum of Ten Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Eight Dollars (\$10,728) to pay for expenses related to the

preservation and digitization of GAR Hall historic documents, or take any other action relative thereto?

Emergency: This work needs to be completed as soon as possible to prevent further deterioration in historic documents.

Requested by: Historical Commission

Approval Recommended by: Historical Commission, Select Board, Community Preservation Committee, Finance Committee

Funding Source: Community Preservation Act Funds (Historic Preservation)

ARTICLE # 4

Will the Town vote to approve and expend, from the Community Preservation Fund, the sum of Seventeen Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$17,600) to construct Phase III improvements at the historic Tramp House on Spring Street, or take any other action relative thereto?

Emergency: This work needs to be completed as soon as possible to prevent further deterioration in this historic structure.

Requested by: Historical Commission

Approval Recommended by: Select Board, Historical Commission, Community Preservation Committee, Finance Committee

Funding Source: Community Preservation Act Funds (Historic Preservation)

ARTICLE # 5

Will the Town vote to approve and expend, from the Community Preservation Fund, the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000) for restoring historic headstones at the Old Town Cemetery located at 0 Liberty Street, Assessing Map 29, Parcel 106, or take any other action relative thereto?

Emergency: This work needs to be completed as soon as possible to prevent further deterioration in this historic cemetery.

Requested by: Historical Commission

Approval Recommended by: Select Board, Historical Commission, Community Preservation Committee, Finance Committee

Funding Source: Community Preservation Act Funds (\$20,000 Historic Preservation; \$40,000 CPA Fund Balance Reserve)

ARTICLE # 6

Will the Town vote to approve and expend, from the Community Preservation Fund, the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) to supplement prior funding to construct an ADA compliant park area located on the Rockland Rail Trail in vicinity of Union Square on Town owned land (abutting Dental Elements along Rail Trail), or take any other action relative thereto?

Emergency: This project is underway and the additional funds are needed to properly complete the project.

Requested By: Highway Superintendent

Approval Recommended by: Finance Committee & Capital Planning Committee

Funding Source: CPA Fund Balance Reserve

ARTICLE # 7

Will the Town vote to authorize the Water Commissioners to take from the Water Capital Stabilization Fund Balance the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00), for the purpose of making generator repairs, or take any other action relative thereto?

Emergency: This work needs to be done as soon as possible to ensure the continued operations of the Joint Water Works during power outages.

Requested by: Abington and Rockland Joint Board of Water Commissioners

Approval Recommended by: Capital Planning Committee and Finance Committee

Funding Source: Water Capital Stabilization

ARTICLE # 8

Will the Town vote to increase the revolving fund spending limits for Fiscal 2025, pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53 E½ as amended for the following purposes authorized to expend the amounts shown below, or take any other action relative thereto?

Department	Fund	Name	Receipt Type	Use of Fund	Spending Limit
Sewer Department	2133	Sewer Remediation	Application Fees	Remediation	\$ 500,000.00
Sewer Department	2134	Sewer I&I	Application Fees	Sewer I&I	\$ 500,000.00

Emergency: This change is necessary for the Sewer Department to make needed repairs.

Requested by: Board of Sewer Commissioners

Approval Recommended by: Board of Sewer Commissioners, Finance Committee

Funding Source: Sewer Remediation Fees

ARTICLE # 9

Will the Town vote to approve the amended South Shore Regional Vocational School District regional agreement which is on file in the Town Clerk's office or take any other action relative thereto?

Explanation: The regional agreement amendment will change how each town's share of debt will be calculated to allow for changes in student enrollment over time. The current formula fixes a town's debt share for the life of the borrowing. With approval of this amendment, a town's debt share will adjust based on a four year rolling average of student enrollment. The town of Marshfield will have its debt share adjusted annually until it has comparable enrollment history and then transition to a four year rolling average like all other towns.

Emergency: This approval has been requested by the South Shore Regional Vocational School Committee so that the update can be implemented prior to the issuance of any new debt.

Requested by: South Shore Regional Vocational School Committee

Approval Recommended by: Select Board, Finance Committee

Funding Source: N/A

ARTICLE # 10

Will the Town vote to take from available funds the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) to pay for the FY25 Plymouth County Outreach dues for the Rockland Police Department's participation in the program, or take any other action relative thereto?

Emergency: This will authorize the payment for the FY25 invoice, which cannot wait until the next Annual Town Meeting in the spring.

Requested by: Police Chief

Approval Recommended by: Select Board, Finance Committee

Funding Source: Opioid Special Purpose Stabilization Fund

ARTICLE # 11

Will the Town vote to amend Article # 34 from the May 6, 2024 Annual Town Meeting, which authorized the Select Board to enter into a lease of private commercial space for the Recreation Department's Community Center at such terms as they deem appropriate, and authorized the transfer of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) from free cash to fund equipment and capital improvements for said leased space, to be used to relocate the Recreation Department's Community Center and School Department Daycare Program to the R Stewart Esten School on Summer Street, or take any other action relative thereto?

Emergency: These funds need to be reauthorized now so that planning work can begin as soon as possible.

Requested by: Select Board

Approval Recommended by: Select Board, Finance Committee

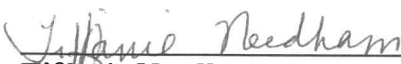
Funding Source: Prior Free Cash Certification

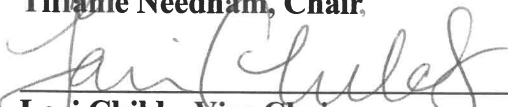
And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting copies at least fourteen (14) days prior to said meeting in each of the six precincts in said Town.

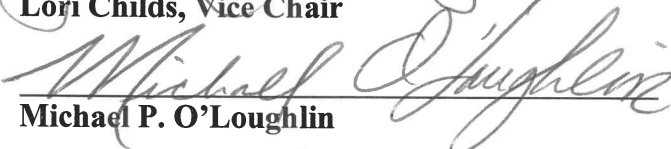
Hereof, fail not, and make return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, on the Town Clerk, at the time and place of holding said meeting.

Given under our hand this 22nd of October, in the year Two Thousand Twenty-Four.

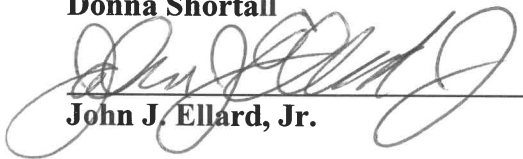
REQUESTED BY: SELECT BOARD


Tiffanie Needham, Chair,


Lori Childs, Vice Chair


Michael P. O'Loughlin


Donna Shortall


John J. Ellard, Jr.

RETURN OF SERVICE

This is to certify that I have this 30th day of ~~November~~^{October} 2024, posted this warrant in each of the six precincts in the Town of Rockland.

ATTEST:
CONSTABLE



Precinct 1	T.K.O. Shea's	932 Hingham Street
Precinct 2	Sullivan Tire	1 VFW Drive
Precinct 3	Town Hall (Rockland Town Offices)	242 Union Street
	Rockland Public Library	20 Belmont Street
	Rockland Senior Center	344 Plain Street
	Rockland Post Office	39 Webster Street
Precinct 4	UPS Store	319 Centre Avenue
Precinct 5	Stevie G's Restaurant	372 Market Street
Precinct 6	Rockland Housing Authority	8 Studley Court