**Annual Town Meeting Votes June 12, 2023**

A quorum being present, Moderator Dennis Bergin called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Article 1:** It was voted to accept the reports of Town Officers as printed in the Annual Town Report.

**Article 2:** It was voted to fix the salaries and compensation of all Elected Officers of the Town as provided for by Chapter 41, Section 108, as set forth in a document entitled “Finance Committee Voter Advisory”.

**Article 3:** It was voted to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow in anticipation of revenue for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2023, and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year.

**Article 4:** It was voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into agreements with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Transportation for the construction, reconstruction, and improvement of Town roads.

**Article 5:** It was voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to set compensation that will allow for men and equipment used in repairing highways and opening roads for enginemen and/or firemen employed for the purpose of fire protection and for police officers employed for the purpose of police protection, during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, all as set forth in a document entitled “Finance Committee Voter Advisory.”

**Article 6**: It was voted to accept any sum of money received from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 90 of the Massachusetts General Laws and authorize the Treasurer to expend such funds for the purposes authorized, including maintaining, repairing, improving and constructing ways, up to the reimbursable amount according to the provisions of said Chapter 90, said funds to be spent with the approval of the Board of Selectmen and Mass. Department of Transportation.

**Article 7:** It was voted pursuant to G.L. c. 44 §53E½ to amend the General Bylaws, Section 23.7, to increase the Board of Health Revolving Fund annual expenditure limit from $10,000 to $20,000; to change the annual expenditure limit for the Treasurer Collector Municipal Lien Certificates revolving from $25,000 to $5,000 as approved under Article 7 of the June 27, 2022, Annual Town Meeting; and, further, to confirm the other expenditure limits set forth in said Section 23.7, with such expenditure limits to be applicable from fiscal year to fiscal year unless the Town meeting votes, prior to July 1st in any year;

Board of Health $20,000

Building Inspector $50,000

Plumbing Inspector $5,000

Wire Inspector $50,000

Deputy Collector $8,000

Planning Board $5,000

Zoning Appeals Board $3,000

Treasurer- MLC fees $5,000

**Article 8:** It was voted to raise and appropriate **$1,614,234.15** and to transfer **$135,916.92** from free cash, for a total appropriation of **$1,750,151.07** as is necessary to pay salaries, expenses, and outlays of the several Town departments and to be allocated as itemized in Article 8 of the warrant for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Budget** | **FY2023 Budget $** | **FY2024 Budget $** |
|  |  |  |
| **Ambulance** |  |  |
| Assessment | $ 27,500.00 | $ 27,500.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **$ 27,500.00** | **$ 27,500.00** |
|  |  |  |
| **Board of Assessors** |  |  |
| Salaries & Wages | $ 21,000.00 | $ 21,525.00 |
| Stipend | $ 3,819.00 | $ 3,819.00 |
| Expenses | $ 8,096.00 | $ 9,434.00 |
| Revaluation | $ 2,500.00 | $ 3,000.00 |
| Cyclic assessment | $ 3,700.00 | $ 3,700.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **$ 39,115.00** | **$ 41,478.00** |
|  |  |  |
| **Board of Health** |  |  |
| Salaries & Wages | $ 3,150.00 | $ 3,150.00 |
| Stipend | $ 2,100.00 | $ 2,100.00 |
| Expenses | $ 4,500.00 | $ 4,500.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **$ 9,750.00** | **$ 9,750.00** |
|  |  |  |
| **Board of Selectman** |  |  |
| Salaries & Wages | $ 40,000.00 | $ 41,000.00 |
| Stipend | $ 4,413.00 | $ 4,413.00 |
| Administrative Services | $ 980.74 | $ 3,000.00 |
| Expenses | $ 77,050.00 | $ 77,205.00 |
| Website/IT | $ 14,520.00 | $ 14,520.00 |
| Board of Selectmen Legal | $ 15,000.00 | $ 15,000.00 |
| Town Report Printing | $ 1,200.00 | $ 1,500.00 |
| Wachusett Greenways | $ - | $ - |
| **Subtotal** | **$ 153,163.74** | **$ 156,638.00** |
|  |  |  |
| **Building Inspector** |  |  |
| Salaries & Wages | $ 2,331.00 | $ 2,389.00 |
| Expenses | $ 1,210.00 | $ 1,210.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **$ 3,541.00** | **$ 3,599.00** |
|  |  |  |
| **Cemeteries** |  |  |
| Stipend | $ 300.00 | $ 300.00 |
| Expenses | $ 9,300.00 | $ 9,900.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **$ 9,600.00** | **$ 10,200.00** |
|  |  |  |
| **CMRPC** | **$ 573.00** | **$ 573.00** |
|  |  |  |
| **Conservation Commission** | **$ 725.00** | **$ 731.00** |
|  |  |  |
| **Council on Aging** |  |  |
| Salaries & Wages | $ - | $ 10,300.00 |
| Stipend | $ 0.00 | $ 0.00 |
| Expenses | $ 6,100.00 | $ 6,600.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **$ 6,400.00** | **$ 16,900.00** |
|  |  |  |
| **Dispatch** |  |  |
| Expenses | $ 1,000.00 | $ 1,320.00 |
| Assessment | $ 56,415.00 | $ 63,771.97 |
| **Subtotal** | **$ 57,415.00** | **$ 65,091.97** |
|  |  |  |
| **Dog/Animal Control Officer** |  |  |
| Salaries & Wages | $ 5,242.65 | $ 5,373.65 |
| Expenses | $ 1,270.00 | $ 1,270.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **$ 6,512.65** | **$ 6,643.65** |
|  |  |  |
| **Emergency Management** |  |  |
| Stipend | $ 1,189.00 | $ 1,189.00 |
| Expenses | $ 400.00 | $ 400.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **$ 1,589.00** | **$ 1,589.00** |
|  |  |  |
| **Finance Committee** |  |  |
| Expenses | $ 1,090.00 | $ 1,125.00 |
| Reserve Fund | $ 41,090.00 | $ 40,000.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **$ 42,180.00** | **$ 41,125.00** |
|  |  |  |
| **Fire Department** |  |  |
| Salaries & Wages, Chief | $ 36,500.00 | $ 37,422.00 |
| Salaries & Wages, Other | $ 41,000.00 | $ 42,417.00 |
| Expenses | $ 55,150.00 | $ 59,075.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **$ 132,650.00** | **$ 138,914.00** |
|  |  |  |
| **Highway** |  |  |
| Salaries & Wages, Superintendent | $ 75,075.00 | $ 76,575.00 |
| Salaries & Wages, Other | $ 111,939.00 | $ 114,939.00 |
| Expenses | $ 56,811.00 | $ 56,811.00 |
| Road Detail | $ 2,000.00 | $ 2,000.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **$ 245,825.00** | **$ 250,325.00** |
|  |  |  |
| **Snow & Ice** |  |  |
| Salaries & Wages | $ 18,598.00 | $ 18,598.00 |
| Expenses | $ 71,976.32 | $ 73,415.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **$ 90,574.32** | **$ 92,013.00** |
|  |  |  |
| **Historical Commission** | **$ 2,500.00** | **$ 1,500.00** |
|  |  |  |
| **Library** |  |  |
| Salaries & Wages | $ 59,746.40 | $ 59,746.40 |
| Stipend | $ 300.00 | $ 300.00 |
| Expenses | $ 33,339.00 | $ 33,479.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **$ 93,385.40** | **$ 93,525.40** |
|  |  |  |
| **Moderator Stipend** | **$ 300.00** | **$ 300.00** |
|  |  |  |
| **Municipal Building Utilities** | **$ 58,000.00** | **$ 64,500.00** |
| **Parks and Recreation** | **$ 4,750.00** | **$ 5,000.00** |
|  |  |  |
| **Planning Board** |  |  |
| Stipend | $ 500.00 | $ 500.00 |
| Expenses | $ 500.00 | $ 500.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **$ 1,000.00** | **$ 1,000.00** |
|  |  |  |
| **Police Department** |  |  |
| Salaries & Wages, Chief | $ 40,465.95 | $ 90,000.95 |
| Salaries & Wages, Full-time Officer | $ 56,000.00 | $ 60,300.00 |
| Salaries & Wages, Other | $ 100,387.40 | $ 58,206.40 |
| Expenses | $ 62,470.00 | $ 50,546.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **$ 259,323.35** | **$ 259,053.35** |
|  |  |  |
| **Street Lights** | **$ 2,200.00** | **$ 2,200.00** |
|  |  |  |
| **Town Accountant** |  |  |
| Salaries & Wages | $ 21,609.00 | $ 21,609.00 |
| Expenses | $ 45,391.00 | $ 51,531.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **$ 67,000.00** | **$ 73,140.00** |
|  |  |  |
| **Town Clerk** |  |  |
| Salaries & Wages | $ 9,608.55 | $ 9,848.55 |
| Expenses | $ 1,125.00 | $ 1,250.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **$ 10,733.55** | **$ 11,098.55** |
|  |  |  |
| **Town Clerk Census** |  |  |
| Stipend | $ 1,000.00 | $ 1,000.00 |
| Expenses | $ 650.00 | $ 700.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **$ 1,650.00** | **$ 1,700.00** |
|  |  |  |
| **Town Clerk Elections** |  |  |
| Salaries & Wages | $ 5,000.00 | $ 5,000.00 |
| Stipend | $ 300.00 | $ 300.00 |
| Expenses | $ 5,500.00 | $ 4,000.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **$ 10,800.00** | **$ 9,300.00** |
|  |  |  |
| **Town Hall** |  |  |
| Salaries & Wages | $ 7,875.00 | $ 7,875.00 |
| Expenses | $ 43,692.04 | $ 37,300.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **$ 51,567.04** | **$ 45,175.00** |
|  |  |  |
| **Treasurer Debt Service** |  |  |
| Municipal Building-Principal (Part of Debt Exclusion) | $ 18,125.00 | $ 18,125.00 |
| Municipal Building-Interest (Part of Debt Exclusion) | $ 14,636.00 | $ 13,775.00 |
| Short-Term Interest and Costs | $ 1,300.00 | $ 1,300.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **$ 34,061.00** | **$ 33,200.00** |
|  |  |  |
| **Treasurer Employee Benefits** | **$ 210,344.00** | **$ 189,000.00** |
| **Treasurer** |  |  |
| Salaries & Wages | $ 32,070.15 | $ 32,871.15 |
| Stipend | $ 1,000.00 | $ 1,000.00 |
| Expenses | $ 38,800.00 | $ 22,950.00 |
| Foreclosure Expenses | $ - | $ 2,500.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **$ 71,870.15** | **$ 59,321.15** |
|  |  |  |
| **Tree Warden** |  |  |
| Salaries & Wages | $ 375.00 | $ 375.00 |
| Expenses | $ 14,636.00 | $ 20,050.00 |
| Road Detail | $ 2,000.00 | $ 4,000.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **$ 17,011.00** | **$ 24,425.00** |
|  |  |  |
| **Veterans Agent** |  |  |
| Salaries & Wages | $ 1,802.00 | $ 1,802.00 |
| Expenses | $ 300.00 | $ 300.00 |
| Veterans Benefits | $ 11,390.00 | $ 11,390.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **$ 13,492.00** | **$ 13,492.00** |
|  |  |  |
| **Zoning Board of Appeals** | **$ 150.00** | **$ 150.00** |
|  |  |  |
| **Town Operating Budget** | **$ 1,737,251.20** | **$ 1,750,151.07** |
|  |  |  |
| **Education Budget** |  |  |
| QRSD Operating Assessment | $ 2,419,605.00 | $ 2,590,351.25 |
|  |  |  |
| QRSD Long-Term Debt Assessment | $ 14,379.00 | $ 14,858.75 |
| **QRSD Subtotal** | **$ 2,433,984.00** | **$ 2,605,210.00** |
|  |  |  |
| Pathfinder Regional | $ 186,942.00 | $ 181,706.00 |
|  |  |  |
| **Education Budget** | **$ 2,620,926.00** | **$ 2,590,351.25** |
|  |  |  |
| **TOTAL BUDGET** | **$ 4,358,177.20** | **$ 4,579,542.34** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **FY24 Revenue Forecast No Free Cash** |  | **$ 4,401,151.76** |
|  |  |  |
| Free Cash Balance |  | $ 251,662.45 |
| Free Cash to Balance Budget |  | $ (178,390.58) |
| Known Articles |  | $ (28,860.55) |
| Free Cash Balance |  | **$ 44,411.32** |
|  |  | 0.97% |

**Article 9:** It was voted to raise and appropriate **$2,605,210.00** to pay the amount assessed to the Town by the Quabbin Regional School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023.

**Article 10:** It was voted to raise and appropriate **$181,706.00** to pay the amount assessed to the Town by the Pathfinder Regional School District for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2023.

**Article11:**  It was voted by a 2/3rd vote to appropriate the sum of **$850,000** for the purchase and equipping of a new or used combination Fire Department Tanker/pumper truck, and as funding therefor, to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §§ 7-8 or any other enabling authority, to borrow said sum and issue bonds and notes therefor; provided, however, that the vote taken hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters at an election of a Proposition 2 ½, so called, debt exclusion, allowing the funds required to pay the principal and interest on such borrowing outside the levy limit. **Yes 106 No 0**

**Article 12**: It was voted by a 2/3rd vote to transfer from the General Stabilization account the amount of **$100,000**, with such sum to be added to that appropriated under Article 11 for the purchase and equipping of a fire truck. **Yes 114 No 0**

**Article 13:** It was voted to transfer from free cash **$1,000** as a grant for Wachusett Greenways Inc., an eight-Town collaborative, to continue its work to create and maintain trails for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and in connection therewith, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a grant agreement with such collaborative, on such terms and conditions as the Board deems appropriate, for the purposes set forth herein.

**Article 14:** It was voted to transfer from free cash **$11,000** to be placed in the Police Department Vehicle Stabilization Account.

**Article 15** It was voted to pass over this article.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Revolving Fund** | **Department, Board, Committee, Agency or Officer Authorized to Spend from Fund** | **Fees, Charges or Other Receipts Credited to Fund** | **Program or Activity Expenses Payable from Fund** | **Restrictions or Conditions on Expenses Payable from Fund** | **Other Requirements/ Reports** | **Fiscal Years** |
| Police Detail Admin. Acct. | Police Department | Fees charged and received by the Police Dept. for Details | Wages of police officers for services, supplies related to delivery of police services to the Town of Oakham | Not to be used to supplement budgeted police Dept. wages. | Yearly report | FY 2023 and subsequent years |

**Article 1****6:** It was voted to amend the FY24 budget approved under Article 8 on this warrant by transferring **$39,055** from the current part time police officer budget line item, and **$10,480** from the police training expense budget line item, for a total of **$49,535** to the Police Chief salary line item in order to fund a full-time police chief position.

**Article 17:** It was voted to hear the report from the Town Hall Planning Committee.

**Article 18:** It was voted to postpone this article.

Provisions of G.L. c. 32B, § 9A, establishing that the Town shall pay one half (1/2) the premium costs for contributory life, hospital, surgical, medical, dental, and other health insurance for employees retired from the service of the Town, and their dependents if applicable to the extent required by statute. **Yes 74 No 23**

**Article 19:** It was voted pursuant to G.L. Ch.44 Sec. 53E ½, to amend Chapter 23 of the General Bylaws, “Revolving Funds,” by establishing a revolving account for Council on Aging fees, as set forth in the warrant, to be used to pay expenses by the Council on Aging, and by establishing an annual expenditure limit of **$5,000**.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Revolving Fund** | **Department, Board, Committee, Agency or Officer Authorized to Spend from Fund** | **Fees, Charges or Other Receipts Credited to Fund** | **Program or Activity Expenses Payable from Fund** | **Restrictions or Conditions on Expenses Payable from Fund** | **Other Requirements/ Reports** | **Fiscal Years** |
| COA | Council on Aging | Fees charged and received by COA | Senior activities | Not to be used to supplement budgeted COA wages. | Yearly report | FY 2024 and subsequent years |

**Article 20:** It was voted to transfer **$15,565.80** from free cash for the purpose of refunding an overpayment made in error by NEXAMP Solar.

**Article 21:** It was voted to change the office of Town Clerk from an elected position an appointed position, with such change occurring only after the approval of the voters at the 2024 Annual Town Election, all as set forth in G.L. c. 41, § 1B. **Yes 46 No 37**

**Article 22:** It was voted to down on the Citizen petition.

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the resolution in support of the work of the Special

Commission on the Official Seal and Motto of the Commonwealth, established by a

Resolve of the General Court in 2021 and appointed by the Governor to recommend

changes to the current flag and seal of Massachusetts, and in support of a new flag

and seal for the Commonwealth that may better reflect our aspirations for harmonious

and respectful relations between all people who now call Massachusetts home

**Article 23**: It was voted by a 2/3rd vote to approve the indebtedness authorized by the Quabbin Regional School District School Committee to pay costs for replacing the chiller, a component of the HVAC system at the Quabbin Regional Middle/High school, and further, to transfer from the General Stabilization Account the sum of **$48,940.87** for the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto. **Yes 81 No 06**

**Article 24** It was voted to pass over this article**.**

To see if the Town will vote to approve the Town of Oakham’s share of

the capital expense and related financing costs to replace the Chiller

unit at the Quabbin Regional Middle/High School to be debt excluded.

**Article 25:** It was voted to transfer **$1,294.75** from free cash to pay bills from a prior fiscal year, specifically, Fiscal Year 2022.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Christine Mardirosian

Oakham Town Clerk