

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Worcester County

To either of the Constables of the Town of **OAKHAM** in the county of Worcester,

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town, qualified to vote in elections and in Town Affairs, to meet at the **Oakham Fire Station**, Barre Road in said Oakham, on **Monday January 22, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.** then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$6,000 to fund the Assessors Stabilization account or take any action relative thereto.

(submitted by FINCOM)

Explanation: To fund revaluation expenses.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$5,000 for the Parks & Recreation Department to maintain Wright Field and Town Common to Parks & Recreation Account. or take any action relative thereto.

(submitted by Parks & Recreation Dept).

Explanation: To pay for the cost of maintenance and landscaping.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to amend the FY24 budget by transferring from the Treasurer's Unemployment Account the sum of \$1,611.52 to the Board of Assessors Wages Account or take any action relative thereto.

(submitted by the Board of Assessors).

Explanation: To compensate Assessors employee for leave time not previously compensated.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to amend the FY24 budget by transferring from the PEG Cable and Related Access Fund the sum of \$16,000 in order to maintain the Town's cable access channel and other Town media access or take any action thereto.

(submitted by the Board of Selectmen).

Explanation: To maintain the equipment used to produce video/audio public meetings.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$2,000 into the Cemetery Commission Expense Account to pay engineering costs for the replacement arch at the Green Hollow Cemetery, including all incidental and related expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

(submitted by the Cemetery Commission)

Explanation: The arch at the cemetery needs replacement. The Commission needs the funds to hire an engineer as required by the building regulation. The arch cost, \$20,000, is being paid with ARPA funds.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to amend the FY24 budget by transferring from the Treasurer's Unemployment Account the sum of \$1,850 to the Board of Health Part Time Wage Account or take any action relative thereto.

(submitted by Board of Health)

Explanation: To increase the work hours from three (3) hrs. per week to five (5) hrs. per week as the workload has increased.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to amend the FY24 budget by transferring from free cash the total sum of \$6,000 to the Town Clerk's Election Wages and Expense accounts, with \$3,000 to be placed into the Wages/Salary Account and \$3,000 into the Election Expenses Account, or take any action relative thereto.

(Submitted by Town Clerk)

Explanation: To cover additional State and Federal Elections expenses.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to amend the FY24 budget by transferring from the Treasurer's Unemployment Account the sum of \$7,342.44 into the Library Part Time Wages Account, or take any action relative thereto.

(submitted by the library)

Explanation: To fund wage cost of living increases left out at ATM and maintain two (2) employees in the building during hours of operation.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to amend the FY24 budget by transferring from the Treasurer's Unemployment Account the sum of \$ 6,249.28 to Police Part Time Wages Account, or take any action relative thereto.

(submitted by Police Department)

Explanation: These funds are needed to fund part time police coverage and were inadvertently left out of the budget at the ATM.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$2,290.97 to Accountant Expense Account; Software Expense Account to pay for a prior year's expense; or take any action relative thereto.

(submitted by Board of Selectmen)

Explanation: To fund an expense that occurred in FY23 to place the billing cycle consistent with the Town's fiscal year.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to amend the FY24 budget by transferring from free cash \$10,000 into the Highway Department Snow & Ice Contracted Services Account, or take any action relative thereto.

(Submitted by the Highway Dept.)

Explanation: To fund the new line item for contracted services. FY 23 was funded as a special article.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 23.7 of Article 23, Revolving Funds, of the General Bylaws as authorized by G.L. c. 44, §53E ½ to increase the expenditure limit of the on the Council on Aging Revolving Fund from the current \$5,000 cap to a \$10,000 cap, or take any action relative thereto.

(Submitted by the Council on Aging)

Explanation: The Council on Aging has increased their programming and feel the fees collected may exceed \$5,000 per year.

Article 13: To see if the Town will adopt the following Flag Bylaw:

"Flagpoles owned and/or maintained by the Town of Oakham are not intended to and do not serve as a forum for free expression to be used by the public, but rather as a nonpublic forum for the display of governmental and nongovernmental flags authorized by the Town as official governmental speech in accordance with this bylaw. As such, no person shall fly or display on a Town flagpole a Commemorative or Organizational Flag other than; (a) The United States flag; (b) The Massachusetts State flag; (c) The official Town of Oakham flag; (d) The official flags of all branches of the U.S. military and armed forces; (e) The POW flag; and / or (f) such other flag specifically authorized by proclamation of the Board of Selectmen made at a properly posted Board meeting."

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$4,956.16 into the Emergency Management grant account fund, or take any action relative thereto.

(Submitted by the Emergency Management Director)

Explanation: These were funds secured by a state grant, but were credited to the wrong account. This article places the funds in the correct account.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$100,000 into the General Stabilization account, or take any action relative thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$75,000 into the Capital Stabilization Account, or take any action relative thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$11,000 into the Police Cruiser Stabilization Account, or take any action related thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$15,000 to conduct a financial audit for FY23, or take any action related thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

Explanation: This is the cost of the audit of the town's finances needed to determine financial health, as well as, for borrowing and seeking bond ratings.

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting the attested copies thereof at the **Oakham Town Hall and On the Town's Website**

In said town, fourteen (14) days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

HEREOF FAIL NOT, and make sure due return of this warrant, with your doings thereon, to The Town Clerk, at that time and place of meeting, as aforesaid. Given under our hands this Eighth day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four.

Selectmen:


Donald Haapakoski, Chairman


Lucy Tessnau, Vice Chairman


Aaron Langlois, Clerk

A True Copy, Attest:
Constable



1/8/24
Date