



**ANNUAL/SPECIAL TOWN MEETINGS
TOPSFIELD TOWN COMMON
NORTH COMMON STREET
SATURDAY, MAY 8, 2021**

The several articles in the Warrant for the Meeting and the action of the Town thereto.

The Moderator, Stephen Whelan, introduced himself and reported there was a quorum present. He called the Annual Town Meeting to order at 10:06 AM. He noted that during this difficult year, the world has changed we all have changed as well. He explained that although we are getting back to some normalcy, we are holding the Annual Town Meeting outside on the Common for health and safety reasons, and because we are “required to move ahead.” He acknowledged the employees and volunteers for their hard work preparing the budgets and the warrant. The Moderator confirmed with the Town Clerk that the warrant had been served and duly posted, and that the Return of the Constable was certified as proper and complete, posted and advertised as required by law.

The Moderator noted that Senator Joan Lovely and Representative Brad Hill were in attendance.

A summary of further announcements are listed below:

1. We have chosen this field for the safety of all. Please respect everyone’s safety. Refrain from moving the chairs and maintain physical distance when coming to the microphones to speak.
2. Restrooms are located in the Emerson Center. Please wear a mask and limit to one at a time indoors.
3. Please retain the blue cards you were issued at Check-in. In the event of a hand count vote, you will be required to raise your card.
4. Please silence all cell phones.
5. The meeting is being recorded for a future broadcast. The Moderator thanked Brad Sweet and Boxford Cable for their service.
6. By long standing tradition in the Town, a recommendation of the Finance Committee amounts to the main motion, and doesn’t require a second. If the Finance Committee recommends “no action” on a particular article, and a voter desires positive action on the article or an amended article, the voter may and should, during discussion of the Finance Committee recommendation, state his or her intention to move for positive action on the article or an amended article if the Finance Committee’s “no action” recommendation is voted down; but, the vote will be taken on the Finance Committee’s recommendation of “no action” before a motion for positive action is in order.
7. If one wishes to speak to any question, one must first be recognized by the Moderator. Please proceed to the nearest microphone. When recognized, the person must state his or her name and street address. There is a two-minute speaking limit. Debate should be conducted in a respectful and courteous manner.
8. If a voter desires to move an amendment to a Finance Committee recommendation or to any other motion, I will require a written proposed motion to amend for review by myself and Town

Counsel prior to any action on it. We have printed forms for these motions and will be happy to help anyone who needs assistance in making it out.

The Moderator introduced the Select Board: Dick Gandt, Boyd Jackson, Marshall Hook, Vice Chair and Clerk, and Lynne Bermudez, Chair. He then introduced Finance Committee Members, Jonathan Guido, Karen Dow, Eric Menzer, Michael Hartmann, David Larson, Karen Duval, and Che Elwell, Chairman. He recognized Town Administrator, Kevin Harutunian and that Town Counsel was being represented by Janelle Austin of KP Law.

ARTICLE FIRST: **REPORTS**

Che Elwell, Chairman of the Finance Committee, presented the report of the Finance Committee. He explained the process of budget planning for the Fiscal Year 2022. He expressed the Committee's appreciation of the assistance and support of the department heads, town officials, and town and school administrators for their commitment to establishing a balanced budget, especially given the challenge of COVID-related increased expenses and reduced revenues. He highlighted two areas of concern for the Finance Committee: the disconnect between annual net salary increases countered by proposition 2 ½ and the ability of the schools to adjust budgets based on enrollments.

Lynne Bermudez, Chair of the Select Board, welcomed the residents to Town Meeting on the Town Common. She summarized the significant accomplishments achieved by the Town this year, and recognized the hard work of Town employees and board and committee volunteers during this difficult pandemic year.

Marshall Hook, Vice Chair and Clerk of the Select Board, recognized citizens who had completed terms on various volunteer boards and committees. They are as follows: Peter Gibney, Gerald Topping, Thomas Manetta, Phil Knowles, Joseph Gibbons, Thomas Weil, David Strachan, Cheryl Jolley, Fred Glatz, Charlotte O'Toole, Ruth Lucy, Lou Ross, George Anderson, Abigail Jackson, Janet Kmetz, Olivia Gatti, Gretchen Rehak, Jay Alberts, Janice Ablon, Edward Roman, Phil Knowles, Mark Gallagher, Richard Stone.

ARTICLE FIRST: **REPORTS**

There were no reports.

ARTICLE SECOND: **PRIOR YEAR BILLS**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay any outstanding bills contracted prior to July 1, 2020.

Jon Guido of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay outstanding bills contracted prior to July 1, 2020 as follows:

FROM:**TO:**

Water – Forms & Printing	\$186.20	Prior Year Water – Forms & Printing	\$186.20
Water – Postage	\$253.37	Prior Year Water – Postage	\$253.37
Water – Telephone	\$119.98	Prior Year Water – Telephone	\$119.98

The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

Article Second passed by unanimous vote.

ARTICLE THIRD:**FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET TRANSFERS**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the unexpended balance of certain accounts, and/or from available funds, and appropriate said funds to certain other accounts to pay certain expenses for the 2021 fiscal year, or take any other action relative thereto.

Jon Guido of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote to transfer from the unexpected balance of certain accounts, and/or from available funds, and appropriate said funds to certain other accounts to pay certain expenses for the 2021 fiscal year. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

FROM:**TO:**

\$2,396 Essex Technical High School Assessment	\$2,000 Sel Wages – Minute Secretary
	\$150 Town Building Electricity
	\$246 Board of Health Wages – Secretary
\$4,000 Fire Vehicle & Maintenance	\$4,000 Fire Wages Training
\$2,000 Medicare Tax	\$2,000 Street Lights
\$500 Tree Warden – Police Details	\$500 Tree Warden Wages Overtime
\$8,896	\$8,896

Article Third passed by unanimous vote.

ARTICLE FOURTH:**PEG ACCESS AND CABLE RELATED FUND – FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET TRANSFER**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds and appropriate a sum of money to fund PEG cable access services for the remainder of the fiscal year, or take any other action relative thereto.

Jon Guido of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate \$1,100 from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund, to the PEG and Cable Professional Services Account to fund cable access services. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

Article Fourth passed by unanimous vote.

A motion to conclude the Special Town Meeting was made, seconded and the Town so voted. The Annual Town Meeting was re-convened at 10:45 AM.

ARTICLE SECOND:

BALANCE TRANSFERS

To see if the Town will vote to transfer certain account balances and appropriate the same to fund the General Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 to be voted under Article Third, or take any other action relative thereto.

Michael Hartmann of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$65,172.67 from various funds listed under this Article Second in the warrant and appropriate the same to fund the General Operating Budget in Fiscal Year 2022 to be voted under Article Third. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

Account:	Amount:
Fund Balance Reserved for Reduction of Future Excludable Debt	322.67
Conservation Commission	10,000
Cable/PEG Fund	54,850
Total Balance to Transfer:	\$65,172.67

The Town so voted unanimously.

ARTICLE THIRD:

GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to fix the annual salary and compensation of all elected officers, and raise and assess, or transfer from available funds, and appropriate a sum of money for elementary schools, highways, and other Town expenses from July 1, 2021 for Fiscal Year 2022, and determine the manner of expending the same, or take any other action relative thereto.

Michael Hartmann, of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$22,227,921 for elementary schools, highways, and other Town expenses, and fix the annual salary and compensation of all elected officers from July 1, 2021, and determine the manner of expending the same as stated in Attachment A to the warrant; and to meet said appropriation, in addition to the amount transferred for such purposes under Article Second, to transfer the sum of \$75,000 from Overlay Surplus and raise and assess the sum of \$22,087,748.33. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

John Kinhan, 55 Colrain Rd., rose to question the need of the recreation department coordinator. He proposed an amendment to Article Third as follows:

“Moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$22,194,821 for elementary schools, highways, and other Town expenses, and fix the annual salary and compensation of all elected officers from July 1, 2021, and determine the manner of expending the same as stated in Attachment A to the warrant; and to meet said appropriation, in addition to the amount transferred for such purposes under Article Second, to transfer the sum of \$75,000 from Overlay Surplus and raise and assess the sum of \$22,054,648.33.”

The motion was seconded, and following a discussion, the amendment was voted down.

Sheryl Knudsen, 18 Brookside Rd., stood to amend Article Third as follows: “Transfer from available funds the sum of \$1,000.00 to fund a minutes secretary for the Board of Health.” The Town voted by majority in

favor of the amendment. A discussion continued on the amended Article Third. Many residents voiced questions and comments about the Stabilization Fund; the Snow and Ice Budget; increases in the Town Accountant and Board of Assessors budgets; a request for a percent plus or minus column added to the appendix of the Warrant; and a request for the school's detail budget to be included in the Warrant. John Kinhan, 55 Colrain Rd., spoke of a concern regarding the elementary school's decrease in enrollment year over year contrasted with the increase in the budget. Phil Knowles, 12 Boston St. Unit 21, rose to move the question. Michael Hartmann, 34 Kinsman Lane, of the Finance Committee restated the amended article as follows:

"Recommended that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$22,228,921 for elementary schools, highways, and other Town expenses, and fix the annual salary and compensation of all elected officers from July 1, 2021, and determine the manner of expending the same as stated in Attachment A to the warrant; and to meet said appropriation, in addition to the amount transferred for such purposes under Article Second, to transfer the sum of \$75,000 from Overlay Surplus and raise and assess the sum of \$22,088,748.33."

The Town voted by majority for the amended article.

ARTICLE FOURTH:

WATER DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and assess, or transfer from available funds, and appropriate a sum of money for the Water Department for Fiscal Year 2022 and determine the manner of expending the same, or take any other action relative thereto.

David Larsen of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote to transfer from Water Revenue the sum of \$2,107,291 and appropriate the same as detailed under this Article Fourth in the Warrant, to operate the Water Department from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, and to approve the sum of \$178,046 of indirect costs appropriated in the General Fund under Article Third, to be funded from Water Revenues. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

WATER DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET			
Actual			Proposed
Appropriation			Appropriation
FY2021			FY2022
\$ 361,555	Salary & Wages		\$ 366,175
410,455	Other		434,930
655,000	Long-Term Debt Principal		659,300
404,125	Long-Term Debt Interest		366,886
-	Short Term Debt Principal		-
-	Short-Term Debt Interest		-
-	Debt Issue Costs		-
50,000	Water Reserve Fund		125,000
230,000	Unanticipated Emergency		155,000
2,111,135		SUB-TOTAL – DIRECT COSTS:	2,107,291
161,291	Indirect Costs		178,046
\$2,272,426		TOTAL WATER DEPARTMENT BUDGET:	\$2,285,337

The Town so voted unanimously.

ARTICLE FIFTH:

MASCONOMET REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ASSESSMENT

To see if the Town will vote to approve the Fiscal Year 2022 Gross Budget of the Masconomet Regional School District and to raise and assess, or transfer from available funds, and appropriate a sum of money for the Town's share of the assessment of same, or take any other action relative thereto.

Karen Duval of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote to approve the Fiscal Year 2022 Gross Budget of the Masconomet Regional School District in the amount of \$38,302,489 and raise, assess and appropriate the sum of \$8,476,833 to fund the Town's share of the Fiscal Year 2022 Masconomet Regional School District Assessment, of which the sum of \$8,394,366 supports the Maintenance & Operating Budget, and the sum of \$82,467 supports the Masconomet Building Debt Service. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

The Town so voted unanimously.

ARTICLE SIXTH:

ESSEX NORTH SHORE AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

To see if the Town will vote to approve the Fiscal Year 2022 Gross Operating Budget of the Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District and to raise and assess, or transfer from available funds, and appropriate a sum of money for the Town's share of the assessment of same, or take any other action relative thereto.

Karen Duval of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote to approve the Fiscal Year 2022 Gross Operating Budget of the Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District in the amount of \$32,008,879 and raise, assess and appropriate the sum of \$419,370 for the Town's share of the assessment of same. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

The Town so voted unanimously.

At 11:29 AM the Moderator presented the first group of consent articles including Articles Seventh thru Article Thirteenth, asking the Town to vote unanimously on these annually recurring articles. A particular article could be pulled for debate and discussion simply by objection. John Kinhan, of 55 Colrain Road, objected to Article Ninth. The Moderator then restated the Consent Items, excluding Article Ninth, and the Town so voted.

***ARTICLE SEVENTH:**

GRANT AUTHORIZATION FOR TOWN PROJECTS

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to apply for, accept, and expend without further appropriation any private, state, or federal grants or loans for Town projects, or take any other action relative thereto.

Che Elwell, Chairman of the Finance Committee, moved that the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to apply for, accept, and expend without further appropriation any private, state, or federal grants or loans for Town projects. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

Article Seventh passed with a majority vote.

***ARTICLE EIGHTH:**

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CONTRACTS

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into contracts with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation for the ensuing year, and to accept and expend such sums as may be made available to the Town in accordance with MGL c.90, or take any other action relative thereto.

Che Elwell, Chairman of the Finance Committee, moved that the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into contracts with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation for the ensuing year and to accept and expend any sums of money made available to the Town in accordance with MGL c.90. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

Article Eighth passed by majority vote.

***ARTICLE NINTH:**

TRI-TOWN COUNCIL ON YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

To see if the Town will vote to raise and assess, or transfer from available funds, and appropriate a sum of money as a grant for Fiscal Year 2022 to fund certain activities of the Tri-Town Council, or take any other action relative thereto.

Che Elwell, Chairman of the Finance Committee, moved that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$20,500 as a grant for Fiscal Year 2022 to fund activities of the Tri-Town Council. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

John Kinhan, of 55 Colrain Rd., asked several questions regarding this grant and requested that the grant application and other information be made available. The Moderator recognized Kevin Harutunian, Town Administrator, who addressed the questions and concerns. Two other residents commented in support of the Tri-Town Council as well.

Article Ninth passed with a unanimous vote.

***ARTICLE TENTH:**

SENIOR CARE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and assess, or transfer from available funds, and appropriate a sum of money as a grant to Senior Care Inc., an authorized service provider for elders in Topsfield, or take any other action relative thereto.

Che Elwell, Chairman of the Finance Committee, moved that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$1,500 as a grant for Fiscal Year 2022 to fund activities of Senior Care Inc. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

Article Tenth passed by majority vote.

***ARTICLE ELEVENTH:**

COMPENSATED ABSENCES FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and assess or transfer from available funds and appropriate a sum of money to the Compensated Absences Fund for the costs of employment separation benefits for unused sick and vacation leave, or other benefits as may be required by law, the Personnel Bylaw, rules, regulations, policies or applicable contracts or collective bargaining agreements, or take any other action relative thereto.

Che Elwell, Chairman of the Finance Committee, moved that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$100,000 to the Town's Compensated Absences Fund to fund the costs of employment separation benefits for unused sick and vacation leave or other benefits as may be required by law, the Personnel Bylaw, rules, regulations, policies or applicable contracts or collective bargaining agreements. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

Article Eleventh passed by majority vote.

***ARTICLE TWELFTH:**

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and assess or transfer from available funds and appropriate a sum of money to the Unemployment Compensation Fund for the costs of unemployment benefits as may be required by law, or take any other action relative thereto.

Che Elwell, Chairman of the Finance Committee, moved that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$80,000 to the Town's Unemployment Compensation Fund to fund the costs of unemployment benefits as may be required by law. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

Article Twelfth passed by majority vote.

***ARTICLE THIRTEENTH:**

TOWN FACILITIES REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and assess, or transfer from available funds, and appropriate a sum of money to be expended by the Select Board to fund facilities repairs, maintenance and any associated costs to repair, maintain and ensure the safety and security of Town-owned properties, facilities equipment and assets, including all incidental and related expenses, or take any other action relative thereto.

Che Elwell, Chairman of the Finance Committee, moved that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$27,000 to be expended by the Select Board to fund facilities repairs, maintenance and any associated costs to repair, maintain and ensure the safety and security of Town-owned properties, facilities equipment and assets, including all incidental and related expenses. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

Article Thirteenth passed with a majority vote.

ARTICLE FOURTEENTH:
TOWN HALL GENERATOR

To see if the Town will vote to raise and assess, or transfer from available funds, and appropriate a sum of money to be expended by the Select Board to purchase and install a generator for the Town Hall building, including design and all incidental and related expenses, or take any other action relative thereto.

Che Elwell, Chairman of the Finance Committee, moved that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate from the Ban Premium Reserved for Appropriation Account the sum of \$40,000 to be expended by the Select Board to purchase and install a generator for the Town Hall building, including design and all incidental and related expenses. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

Rafael McDonald, of 30 Parsonage Lane, asked if the Town considered battery products. A brief discussion followed.

Article Fourteenth passed by unanimous vote.

ARTICLE FIFTEENTH:
POLICE CRUISER

To see if the Town will vote to raise and assess, or transfer from available funds, and appropriate a sum of money to be expended by the Select Board, with the advice of the Police Chief, to purchase and equip a new Police Cruiser, including all incidental and related expenses, or take any other action relative thereto.

Karen Duval of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$67,500 to be expended by the Select Board, with the advice of the Police Chief, to purchase and equip a new Police Cruiser, including all incidental and related expenses. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

There was no discussion. Article Fifteenth passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE SIXTEENTH:
POLICE CRUISER RADIOS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and assess, or transfer from available funds, and appropriate a sum of money to be expended by the Select Board, with the advice of the Police Chief, to purchase and install three new police cruiser radios, including all incidental and related expenses, or take any other action relative thereto.

Karen Duval of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$16,000 to be expended by the Select Board, with the advice of the Police Chief, to purchase and install three new police cruiser radios, including all incidental and related expenses. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

There was no discussion. Article Sixteenth passed by unanimous vote.

ARTICLE SEVENTEENTH:

FIRE STATION ROOF REPLACEMENT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and assess, or transfer from available funds, and appropriate a sum of money to be expended by the Select Board, to purchase and install a new roof at the Fire Station, including engineering, design and all incidental and related expenses, or take any other action relative thereto.

Karen Dow of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$35,000 to be expended by the Select Board to purchase and install a new roof at the Fire Station, including engineering, design and all incidental and related expenses; and to meet said appropriation, transfer the sum of \$20,000 from the Ban Premium Reserved for Appropriation Account and transfer the sum of \$15,000 from Article Eighteenth of the 2020 Annual Town Meeting (Replace Fire Station Air Handler). The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

Catherine Gabriel, Town Accountant, answered a question from Robert Kmetz, of 32 Towne Lane, defining a "Ban." There was no additional discussion.

Article Seventeenth passed by unanimous vote.

ARTICLE EIGHTEENTH:

PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING HVAC SYSTEM REPLACEMENT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and assess, or transfer from available funds, and appropriate a sum of money to be expended by the Select Board, to purchase and install a new HVAC system at the Public Works Building, including design, demolition, site clearing, testing and all other incidental and related expenses, or take any other action relative thereto.

David Larson of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$44,500 to be expended by the Select Board, to purchase and install a new HVAC system at the Public Works Building, including design, demolition, site clearing, testing and all other related expenses; and to meet said appropriation, transfer the sum of \$4,500 from Free Cash, transfer the sum of \$22,465 from the Ban Premium Reserved for Appropriation Account, transfer the sum of \$2,535 from the Water Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings and transfer the sum of \$15,000 from Article Thirteenth of the 2020 Annual Town Meeting (Town Hall and Library Telephone System). The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

There was no discussion. Article Eighteenth passed by unanimous vote.

ARTICLE NINETEENTH:

PUBLIC WORKS MULTI-PURPOSE TRACTOR

To see if the Town will vote to raise and assess, or transfer from available funds, and appropriate a sum of money to be expended by the Select Board, to purchase and equip a Public Works Multi-Purpose Tractor, including all incidental and related expenses, or take any other action relative thereto.

David Larson of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$172,000 to be expended by the Select Board to purchase and equip a Public Works Multi-Purpose Tractor, including all incidental and related expenses; and to meet said appropriation, transfer the sum of \$114,000 from Free Cash, such sum to be added to the sum of \$58,000 that the Select Board has committed from Chapter 90 funds for such purposes. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

Following a brief discussion, Article Nineteenth passed by unanimous vote.

ARTICLE TWENTIETH:

FIRE SPRINKLER IMPROVEMENTS FOR PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING

To see if the Town will vote to raise and assess, or transfer from available funds, and appropriate a sum of money to be expended by the Select Board, to pay costs of design and construction of fire sprinkler improvements for the Public Works Building, including, but not limited to, the design and installation of electrical, piping, valving, fire alarm and other required control and alarm changes, and all incidental and related expenses, or take any other action relative thereto.

David Larson of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$75,000, to be expended by the Select Board, to pay costs of design and construction of fire sprinkler improvements for the Public Works Building, including, but not limited to, the design and the installation of electrical, piping, valving, fire alarm and other required control and alarm changes, and all incidental and related expenses; and to meet said appropriation, transfer the sum of \$48,500 from Free Cash and transfer the sum of \$26,500 from the Ban Premium Reserved for Appropriation Account. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

Article Twentieth passed by unanimous vote.

ARTICLE TWENTY-FIRST:

PUBLIC WORKS PICKUP TRUCK

To see if the Town will vote to raise and assess, or transfer from available funds, and appropriate a sum of money to be expended by the Select Board, to purchase and equip a new Public Works Pickup Truck, including all incidental and related expenses, and trade-in or sell a 2009 Pickup Truck, or take any other action relative thereto.

David Larson of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 to be expended by the Select Board, to purchase and equip a new Pickup Truck, including all incidental and related expenses, and trade-in or sell a 2009 Pickup Truck; and to meet said appropriation, transfer the sum of \$20,000 from Free Cash and transfer the sum of \$20,000 from the Cemetery Trust Fund. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

Article Twenty-first passed by unanimous vote.

ARTICLE TWENTY-SECOND:
LIBRARY FIRE ALARM PANEL

To see if the Town will vote to raise and assess, or transfer from available funds, and appropriate a sum of money to be expended by the Select Board to fund the purchase and installation of a new Fire Panel for the Library, including all incidental and related expenses, or take any other action relative thereto.

Jon Guido of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$14,000 to be expended by the Select Board, to purchase and install a new Fire Panel for the Library, including all incidental and related expenses. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

Article Twenty-second passed by unanimous vote.

ARTICLE TWENTY-THIRD:
LIBRARY SECURITY CAMERA SYSTEM

To see if the Town will vote to raise and assess, or transfer from available funds, and appropriate a sum of money to be expended by the Select Board to fund the purchase and installation of a security camera system for the Library, including design, hardware and software and all incidental and related expenses, or take any other action relative thereto.

Jon Guido of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 from Article Thirteenth of the 2020 Annual Town Meeting (Town Hall and Library Telephone System), to be expended by the Select Board for the purchase and installation of a security camera system for the Library, including design, hardware and software and all incidental and related expenses. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

Article Twenty-third passed by unanimous vote.

ARTICLE TWENTY-FOURTH:
BOSTON STREET WATER STORAGE TANK REPLACEMENT EVALUATION AND DESIGN

To see if the Town will vote to raise and assess or transfer from available funds and appropriate a sum of money to fund the evaluation and design for the replacement of the Boston Street Water Storage Tank, including all incidental or related expenses, or take any other action relative thereto.

David Larson of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate from the Water Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings the sum of \$275,000, to be expended by the Select Board, to fund the evaluation and design for the replacement of the Boston Street Water Storage Tank and all incidental or related expenses. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

David Larson, of 109 North Street, stood to amend the motion as follows:

Recommended that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate from the Water Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings the sum of \$275,000, to be expended by the Select Board, to fund the evaluation and design for the replacement of the Boston Street Water Storage Tank and all incidental or related expenses including any construction required on the access road.

The amendment was passed by unanimous vote.

Following a brief discussion, Article Twenty-fourth passed by unanimous vote.

ARTICLE TWENTY-FIFTH:

COPPERMINE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and assess, or transfer from available funds, and appropriate a sum of money to be expended by the Select Board to fund road repairs, improvements and maintenance on the portion of Coppermine Road in which the Town of Topsfield holds an access easement between the Coppermine subdivision and Locust Street in Middleton, all to ensure safe access to properties in Topsfield, including all incidental and related expenses, or take any other action relative thereto.

Eric Menzer of the Finance Committee moved that should the state not allot the Town a grant or otherwise make funds available to the Town for the stated purposes by June 30, 2022, the Town vote to transfer and appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$45,000 to be expended by the Select Board to fund road repairs, improvements and maintenance on the portion of Coppermine Road in which the Town of Topsfield holds an access easement between the Coppermine subdivision and Locust Street in Middleton, all to ensure safe access to properties in Topsfield, including all incidental and related expenses. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

Following a brief discussion, Article Twenty-fifth passed by unanimous vote.

ARTICLE TWENTY-SIXTH:

CREATION OF AN AMBULANCE & FIRE APPARATUS STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to MGL c.40, §5B, to create a special purpose stabilization fund, to be known as the Ambulance and Fire Apparatus Stabilization Fund, to allow the Town to aggregate funds for the purchase and equipping of ambulances and fire apparatus and other related capital equipment in connection therewith, to vote to designate 25% of revenue collected through ambulance billing to be directly credited to that fund, without further appropriation, to take effect on the first day of July, 2021, or take any other action relative thereto.

Karen Dow of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote, pursuant to MGL c.40, §5B, to create a special purpose stabilization fund, to be known as the Ambulance and Fire Apparatus Stabilization Fund, to allow the Town to aggregate funds for the purchase and equipping of ambulances and fire apparatus and other related capital equipment, in connection therewith, to designate 25% of revenue collected through ambulance billing to be directly credited to that Fund, without further appropriation, to take effect on the first day of July, 2021. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

Following a brief discussion, Article Twenty-sixth passed by unanimous vote, exceeding the required two-thirds.

At 12:20 pm the Moderator presented the second group of consent articles including, Articles Twenty Seventh thru Article Thirtieth, asking the Town to vote unanimously on these articles related to updating the Masconomet Regional School District Agreement. Hearing no objection, Karen Duval of the Finance Committee summarized the Articles, and the Town so voted.

****ARTICLE TWENTY-SEVENTH:**

AMEND MASCONOMET REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AGREEMENT, ELIMINATION OF LANGUAGE

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Masconomet Regional School District Agreement, as The Finance Committee recommended by the Masconomet Regional School District School Committee, by deleting text that is no longer applicable and updating other text as follows, with provisions to be deleted shown in strikethrough as set forth in items 1 through 4 below:

1. By striking Subsection “B” of Section I, which currently reads:

~~B. Interim Committee~~

~~Within 30 days after the passage of this Amendment (refers to 8th Amendment) to the Masconomet Regional School District Agreement by the member towns, an interim Committee will be established which will consist of the four elected members from the Town of Topsfield, the four elected members from the Town of Boxford plus one member from the Town of Boxford appointed by the selectmen of the Town of Boxford and the remaining interim Committee members from Boxford, said appointed member to serve until the next annual election; the three elected members from the Town of Middleton plus one member from the Town of Middleton appointed by the Selectmen of the Town of Middleton and the remaining interim Committee members from Middleton, said appointed member to serve until the next annual election.~~

and re-lettering the remaining subsections to reflect the deletion of Subsection “B”.

2. In Subsection “D” of Section IV, “Apportionment of Capital Costs,” by striking “Essex County Agricultural School” and replacing it with “Essex Northshore Agricultural and Technical School” and by striking the sentence: “This amendment shall first take effect with the apportionment for the year 1962.”
3. In Subsection “F” of Section IV, “Fiscal Year and Times of Payments of Apportioned Costs,” by striking the following:

~~“Provided, however, that for the fiscal period beginning January 1, 1973, and ending June 30, 1974, the dates on or before which the respective percentages of the costs of the District for said period apportioned to each member town shall be paid shall be as follows:~~

April 1, 1973	17%
June 1, 1973	16%
September 1, 1973	17%
December 1, 1973	16%
March 1, 1974	17%
June 1, 1974	17%

~~This section shall be effective only to the extent that Chapter 849 of the Acts of 1969 as amended shall be in effect.”~~

4. By striking Subsection “A” of Section V, “Budget,” which currently reads:

~~A. — Initial Budget~~

~~Within sixty days after the original Committee is organized, it shall prepare a reasonably detailed operating and maintenance budget covering expenses, if any, for the balance of the then calendar year. Copies of such proposed budget shall be submitted to the Chairman of the Finance or Advisory Committee of each member town, or if there is no Finance or Advisory Committee in a member town, to the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen of such town, for its consideration. A budget shall be adopted not earlier than fourteen days but within thirty days after the proposed budget has been so submitted. The amount of the said budget shall be apportioned between the member towns according to the provisions in section N hereof. The treasurer shall certify to each member town its respective share of said budget. The sums thus certified shall be payable forthwith by each member town to the Committee but only from funds which may be or may have been appropriated by each member town for such purpose, if any.~~

and re-lettering the remaining subsections to reflect the deletion of Subsection “A”.

or take any other action relative thereto.

Karen Duval of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote to amend the Masconomet Regional School District Agreement, as set forth in this Article Twenty-Seventh in the warrant. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

There was no discussion. Article Twenty-Seventh passed by unanimous vote.

****ARTICLE TWENTY-EIGHTH:**

AMEND MASCONOMET REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AGREEMENT, SECTION I, THE REGIONAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Masconomet Regional School District Agreement, Section I, The Regional District Committee, as The Finance Committee recommended by the Masconomet Regional School District School Committee, as follows, with the provisions to be inserted shown in bold italics and deletions shown in strikethrough, as set forth below:

By striking Subsection “C” of Section I, which currently reads:

~~C. — Elected Members~~

~~In order to comply with the proportional representation requirements mandated by the United States Constitution (also known as “one man, one vote”), the total number of representatives to the Committee from each of the Towns of Boxford and Topsfield shall be reduced by one. To accomplish this reduction, one position on the Committee held by a representative of the Town of Topsfield with a term expiring in 2012 shall be abolished upon the expiration of such representative’s term in 2012. In addition, one of the two positions on the Committee held by the representatives of the Town of Boxford with a term~~

~~expiring in 2012, shall be abolished upon the expiration of such representative's term. The Chairman of the Committee shall determine by lot the particular position to be eliminated.~~

and inserting the following in Section I:

B. Election of Committee Members

Members of the Committee from each member town shall be elected by voters in such member town at such member town's annual town election to serve three-year terms on a staggered basis. Thus, every third year, two persons shall be elected by the voters in Middleton and two persons shall be elected by the voters in Boxford to serve on the Committee, and otherwise one person shall be elected from each member town every year.

It is the intent of this agreement, pursuant to G.L. c. 71, § 14E, that Committee members be elected by voters in member towns with each member town's representation apportioned according to population. Accordingly, the Committee will review its apportionment as soon as practicable after each federal census and will recommend such amendments to this agreement as may be necessary to ensure that such apportionment continues to reflect the relative population of the member towns as accurately as possible.

or take any other action relative thereto.

Karen Duval of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote to amend the Masconomet Regional School District Agreement, Section I, The Regional District Committee, as set forth in this Article Twenty-Eighth of the warrant. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

There was no discussion. Article Twenty-Eighth passed by unanimous vote.

****ARTICLE TWENTY-NINTH:**

AMEND MASCONOMET REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AGREEMENT, SECTION IV E, APPORTIONMENT OF OPERATING COSTS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Masconomet Regional School District Agreement, Section IV E, Apportionment of Operating Costs, as The Finance Committee recommended by the Masconomet Regional School District School Committee, as follows, with the provisions to be inserted shown in bold italics and deletions shown in strikethrough, as set forth below:

By striking Subsection "E" of Section IV, "Apportionment of Operating Costs," which currently reads:

~~E. Apportionment of Operating Costs~~

~~Operating costs for the first calendar year next following the establishment of the regional school district and for every calendar year thereafter shall be apportioned to the~~

~~member towns on the basis of their respective pupil enrollments in the regional school. Each member town's share for each calendar year shall be determined by computing the ratio which that town's pupil enrollment in the regional district school on October 1 of the year in which apportionment is determined bears to the total pupil enrollment from all the member towns in the regional district school on the same date. In the event that enrollment in the regional district school has not been accomplished by October 1 of any year, operating costs shall be apportioned on the basis of enrollment in grades 7 through 12 of pupils residing in each member town and receiving education at such town's expense on October 1 of that year.~~

And replacing it with the following:

E. Apportionment of Operating Costs

1. Operating costs for fiscal years 2021 through 2022 will be apportioned to member towns using the method outlined in G.L. c. 70 § 6. Operating assessments for each member town shall equal the sum of (i) such member town's required local contribution to the regional school district as determined by the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, and (ii) the product of (a) that portion of the regional school district's net school spending, as defined by G.L. c. 70, § 2, which exceeds the total required local contribution for all member towns, multiplied by (b) the ratio which such member town's pupil enrollment in the regional school district on October 1 of the year in which apportionment is determined bears to the total pupil enrollment from all member towns on the same date.

2. For Fiscal Year 2023, operating costs will be apportioned to member towns using the method outlined in G.L. c. 70, § 6. Operating assessments for each member town shall equal the sum of (i) such member town's required local contribution to the regional school district as determined by the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, and (ii) the product of (a) that portion of the regional school district's net school spending, as defined by G.L. c. 70, § 2, which exceeds the total required local contribution for all member towns, multiplied by (b) the ratio which such member town's October 1 pupil enrollment in the regional school district for the two (2) preceding fiscal years bears to the total pupil enrollment from all member towns during the same period.

3. For Fiscal Year 2024, operating costs will be apportioned to member towns using the method outlined in G.L. c. 70, § 6. Operating assessments for each member town shall equal the sum of (i) such member town's required local contribution to the regional school district as determined by the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, and (ii) the product of (a) that portion of the regional school district's net school spending, as defined by G.L. c. 70, § 2, which exceeds the three (3) preceding fiscal years bears to the total pupil enrollment from all member towns during the same period.

4. For Fiscal Year 2025, operating costs will be apportioned to member towns using the method outlined in G.L. c. 70, § 6. Operating assessments for each member town shall equal the sum of (i) such member town's required local contribution to the regional school district as determined by the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, and (ii) the product of (a) that portion of the regional school

district's net school spending, as defined by G.L. c. 70, § 2, which exceeds the total required local contribution for all member towns, multiplied by (b) the ratio which such member town's October 1 pupil enrollment in the regional school district for the four (4) preceding fiscal years bears to the total pupil enrollment from all member towns during the same period.

5. *Beginning in Fiscal Year 2026, operating costs will be apportioned to member towns using the method outlined in G.L. c. 70, § 6. Operating assessments for each member town shall equal the sum of (i) such member town's required local contribution to the regional school district as determined by the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, and (ii) the product of (a) that portion of the regional school district's net school spending, as defined by G.L. c. 70, § 2, which exceeds the total required local contribution for all member towns, multiplied by (b) the ratio which such member town's October 1 pupil enrollment in the regional school district for the five (5) preceding fiscal years bears to the total pupil enrollment from all member towns during the same period.*

or take any other action relative thereto.

Karen Duval of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote to amend the Masconomet Regional School District Agreement, Section IV E, Apportionment of Operating Costs, as set forth in this Article Twenty-Ninth of the warrant. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

There was no discussion. Article Twenty-Ninth passed by unanimous vote.

****ARTICLE THIRTIETH:**

AMEND MASCONOMET REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AGREEMENT, SECTION IV F, PAYMENT OF OPERATING COSTS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Masconomet Regional School District Agreement, Section IV F, Payment of Operating Costs, as The Finance Committee recommended by the Masconomet Regional School District School Committee, as follows, with the provisions to be inserted shown in bold italics and deletions shown in strikethrough, as set forth below:

By striking the second sentence of Subsection "F" of Section IV, "Fiscal Year and Times of Payments of Apportioned Costs," which currently reads:

~~Except as otherwise provided in subsection V(A), the annual share of each member town shall be paid in four (4) equal installments quarterly due on or before the following dates each year:~~

~~September 1 — 25%
December 1 — 50%
March 1 — 75%
June 1 — 100%~~

and replacing it with the following:

Except as otherwise provided in subsection V (A), the annual share of each member town shall be paid in four (4) equal installments quarterly due on or before the following dates each year:

August 15

November 15

February 15

May 15

or take any other action relative thereto.

Karen Duval of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote to amend the Masconomet Regional School District Agreement, Section IV F, Payment of Operating Costs, as set forth in this Article Thirtieth of the warrant. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

There was no discussion. Article Thirtieth passed by unanimous vote.

ARTICLE THIRTY-FIRST:

FIVE YEAR SCHOOL BUS CONTRACT

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to MGL c.30B, §12 to authorize, during the ensuing year, the Topsfield School Committee, with advice of the Superintendent of Schools of the Tri-Town Union, to solicit and award a transportation contract for a term exceeding three years, but not longer than five years, including any renewal, extension, or option, provided, in each instance, the longer term is found to be in the best interest of the Tri-Town Union, or take any other action relative thereto.

Eric Menzer of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote to authorize, during the ensuing year, the Topsfield School Committee, with advice of the Superintendent of Schools of the Tri-Town Union, to negotiate and enter into a five-year contract for the Tri-Town Union transportation services. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

Article Thirty-first passed by unanimous vote.

ARTICLE THIRTY-SECOND:

FIVE YEAR SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to MGL c.30B, §12 to authorize, during the ensuing year, the Topsfield School Committee, with advice of the Superintendent of Schools of the Tri-Town Union, to solicit and award a food service management contract for a term exceeding three years, but not longer than five years, including any renewal, extension, or option, provided, in each instance, the longer term is found to be in the best interest of the Tri-Town Union, or take any other action relative thereto.

Eric Menzer of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote to authorize, during the ensuing year, the Topsfield School Committee, with advice of the Superintendent of Schools of the Tri-Town Union, to negotiate and enter into a five-year contract for the Tri-Town Union food management services. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

Article Thirty-second passed by unanimous vote.

ARTICLE THIRTY-THIRD:

RECODIFICATION OF GENERAL BYLAWS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws by making non-substantive, ministerial amendments to the General Bylaws for the purpose of recodifying the General Bylaws to create a more uniform presentation, organized topical structure and reader-friendly format to aid searches and to facilitate the insertion of future amendments, including renumbered outline format, insertion of headings and subheadings, providing for consistency with Massachusetts General Laws and internally with regard to spelling and use of various words, and updating references to existing Town offices and bodies; all as set forth in a document entitled, “Bylaw Recodification – Final Draft – April 2021” showing the text to be inserted underlined and text to be deleted in the margins, on file in the office of the Town Clerk and available on the Town’s website at www.topsfield-ma.gov, or take any other action relative thereto.

Michael Hartmann, of the Finance Committee, moved that the Town vote to amend the General Bylaws by making non-substantive, ministerial amendments to the General Bylaws for the purpose of recodifying the General Bylaws to create a more uniform presentation, organized topical structure and reader-friendly format to aid searches and to facilitate the insertion of future amendments, including renumbered outline format, insertion of headings and subheadings, providing for consistency with Massachusetts General Laws and internally with regard to spelling and use of various words, and updating references to existing Town offices and bodies; all as set forth in a document entitled, “Bylaw Recodification – Final Draft – April 2021” showing the text to be inserted underlined and text to be deleted in the margins, on file in the office of the Town Clerk and available on the Town’s website at www.topsfield-ma.gov. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

There was no discussion. Article Thirty-third passed with a unanimous vote.

ARTICLE THIRTY-FOURTH:

AMEND ZONING BYLAW, ARTICLE XI, GROUNDWATER PROTECTION DISTRICT

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town’s Zoning Bylaw Article XI, Groundwater Protection District, Section 6.1 Permitted Uses, as follows, with the provision to be deleted shown in strikethrough and the provision to be added shown in bold italics, as set forth below:

“6.1 Permitted Uses

- 1. ~~All uses customary and incidental to maintaining and using a residential dwelling. Any use permitted in the underlying zoning district except for those uses specifically prohibited in Section 6.2 of this bylaw.~~***

or take any other action relative thereto.

Eric Menzer of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote to amend the Town’s Zoning Bylaw Article XI, Groundwater Protection District, Section 6.1 Permitted Uses as set forth in Article Thirty-fourth of the Warrant. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

Greg Mellinger, of 23 Perkins Circle, presented the Planning Board report. The Planning Board recommended positive action.

There was no discussion. Article Thirty-fourth passed with a unanimous vote.

ARTICLE THIRTY-FIFTH:

AMEND ZONING BYLAW, ARTICLE II, BUSINESS DISTRICT VILLAGE

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's Zoning Bylaw Article II, Establishment and Description of Districts Section 2.04, Business District Village, as follows, with the provision to be added shown in bold italics, as set forth below:

“2.04 Business District Village.

The Business District Village shall comprise an area bounded by a line beginning at the intersection of Main Street and the center line of the railroad or railroad bed right of way where track has been removed, and following said line westerly to the Proctor School Playground; thence following the southern boundary of the Proctor School playground to Main Street, and crossing Main Street; and following the southern boundary of the Town Library grounds to the brook; following the brook southwesterly until it intersects a parallel to Main Street 250 feet to the southeast thereof, following this parallel across Central Street and Park Street to South Main Street; then following South Main Street north to the center line of the railroad, the point of beginning. ***The Business District Village shall also include the following lots referred to by the lot number and the Assessor's map number: Map 41 Lots 32, 60 and 133.***”

or to take any other action relative thereto.

Eric Menzer of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote to amend the Town's Zoning Bylaw Article II, Establishment and Description of Districts Section 2.04, Business District Village as set forth in Article Thirty-fifth of the Warrant. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

Josh Rownd, of 110 Salem Rd., presented the Planning Board report. The Planning Board recommended positive action.

Jon Palace, of 21 Winsor Lane, asked the Moderator to confirm that the Town will require that environmental reports, surveys and analyses will be completed before any work is done. Martha Morrison, Chair of Planning Board, confirmed that any applicant would have to return to the Planning Board to complete all of the requirements before any work could be accomplished there.

Article Thirty-fifth passed with a unanimous vote.

ARTICLE THIRTY-SIXTH:

OLD HIGHWAY GARAGE TRANSFER AND REDEVELOPMENT

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board, in accordance with the requirements of MGL c. 30B, §16, to convey or otherwise dispose of certain real property situated between Main Street and High Street and shown on Assessors' Map 41 Lot 60, and as shown on a Plan of Land entitled “27 High Street, (A.K.A. 10 School Avenue) Topsfield, Massachusetts 01983”, for redevelopment purposes, on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems appropriate, and, further, to enter into such agreements and execute such instruments as may be necessary or convenient to effectuate the purposes of this article, or take any other action relative thereto.

Eric Menzer of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote to authorize the Select Board, in accordance with the requirements of MGL c. 30B, §16, to convey or otherwise dispose of certain real property as shown on Assessors' Map 41 Lot 60, and as shown on a Plan of Land entitled “27 High Street, (A.K.A. 10 School Avenue) Topsfield, Massachusetts 01983”, on such terms and conditions as the Select

Board deems appropriate, and, further, to enter into such agreements and execute such instruments as may be necessary or convenient to effectuate the vote taken hereunder. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

A robust discussion took place. Lou Ross, of 48 Kinsman Lane, questioned whether the vote needed to be two-thirds majority, however, Town Counsel confirmed it should be a simple majority vote.

Article Thirty-sixth passed with a majority vote.

ARTICLE THIRTY-SEVENTH:

OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (“OPEB” TRUST FUND)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and assess, or transfer from available funds, and appropriate a sum of money to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

Karen Dow of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$340,000 to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

Article Thirty-seventh passed with a unanimous vote.

ARTICLE THIRTY-EIGHTH:

CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote in accordance with the provisions of MGL c.40, §5B to raise and assess, or transfer from available funds, and appropriate a sum of money to the Capital Stabilization Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

Jon Guido of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$100,000 to the Capital Stabilization Fund. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

There was no discussion. Article Thirty-eighth passed with a unanimous vote.

ARTICLE THIRTY-NINTH:

GENERAL STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote in accordance with the provisions of MGL c.40, §5B to raise and assess, or transfer from available funds, and appropriate a sum of money to the Capital Stabilization Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

Jon Guido of the Finance Committee moved that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$25,000 to the General Stabilization Fund. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

Article Thirty-ninth passed with a unanimous vote.

ARTICLE FORTIETH:

FREE CASH TO OFFSET THE TAX RATE

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds and appropriate a sum of money to reduce the tax levy for Fiscal Year 2022, or take any other action relative thereto.

Che Elwell, Chairman of the Finance Committee, moved that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$400,000 to reduce the tax levy for Fiscal Year 2022. The Finance Committee recommended positive action.

There was no discussion. Article Fortieth passed with a unanimous vote.

After completion of the last article to be brought before the Town, the Moderator asked for a motion to adjourn Town Meeting, which was received and seconded by the Town. The Annual Town Meeting of 2021 was dissolved at 12:45 PM. There were 204 registered voters in attendance.

TOWN OF TOPSFIELD ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION May 20, 2021

The polls opened at 7:00 AM on May 20, 2021, at St. Rose of Lima Church Hall, 12 Park Street, with Paula Burke as Election Warden, and Frederick Capobianco as Constable. The following election workers were sworn to the faithful performance of their duties:

Ruth Bortzfield, Mary Connor, Elaine Crippen, Kathy Curran, Judy Forrest, Debra Parkhurst, and Susan Whelton

The polls were closed at 8:00 PM, and 1033 ballots were cast. There were 4985 persons registered to vote in this election. Total percentage voting in this election is 20.7%. The results are as follows:

Moderator, One Year

Stephen T. Whelan	781	*
Blanks	252	
Write Ins	0	

Selectman, Three Years (Vote for Two)

Lynne A. Bermudez	751	*
Cameron Knight Brown	508	*
Blanks	807	
Write Ins	0	

Selectman, Two Years

Boyd R. Jackson	728	*
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Blanks	300	
Write Ins – Al Holland	5	
 <u>Elementary School Committee, Three Years</u>		
Charise Rohm Nulsen	724	*
Blanks	309	
Write Ins	0	
 <u>Assessor, Three Years</u>		
Robert E. Kanter	731	*
Blanks	302	
Write Ins	0	
 <u>Commissioner of Trust Funds, Three Years</u>		
Rafael N. McDonald	738	*
Blanks	295	
Write Ins	0	
 <u>Housing Authority, Five Years</u>		
Jennifer L. DiCarlo	734	*
Blanks	299	
Write Ins	0	
 <u>Library Trustee, Three Years (Vote for Two)</u>		
Kathryn S. Hartmann	696	*
Carolyn Jensen	530	*
Blanks	840	
Write Ins	0	
 <u>Planning Board, Three Years</u>		
C. Josh Rownd	707	*
Blanks	326	
Write Ins	0	
 <u>Regional School Committee, Three Years (Vote for One)</u>		
Zillie Theodorou Bhuj	604	*
Kathleena R. Scarpato	402	
Blanks	27	
Write Ins	0	

A true copy attest:

Mary E. Willis
Town Clerk