



Annual Town Meeting

Warrant Article Information

June 2020

Article 1 - This is a placeholder article from previous Town Meetings. The town officers will be chosen at the Annual Election on June 30, 2020.

Article 2 - This is a standard article to allow any Town Officer, Board, Commission, or Committee to make a report on the floor of Town Meeting.

Article 3 - This article authorizes the Board of Selectmen to enter into agreements with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Transportation for the construction and maintenance of public highways for Fiscal Year 2021.

Article 4 - This article allows the town to accept educational grants and aid for Fiscal Year 2021, to be expended for authorized purposes by the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School and the Quabbin Regional School District.

Article 5 - This article authorizes the continuation of the Holden Hospital Account for Fiscal Year 2021. The Holden Hospital Account is funded by monies received from the establishment of a \$2,500,000 trust fund under a settlement between the Medical Center of Central Massachusetts (MCCM) and the eleven communities formerly served by Holden Hospital. Any purchases to be presented for payment from this account shall be authorized by the appropriate board; and shall only be used for rescue vehicle replacement assistance, fire department emergency medicine education and training; or other health-based Board of Health programs and expenditures deemed to fall within the account's intentions. This is an important source of revenue for the town and, in FY20, helped fund the replacement of the Fire Chief's emergency response vehicle.

Article 6 - This standard article establishes the Fiscal 2021 spending limit for the town's approved revolving accounts. A full listing of the town's revolving accounts, their purpose and the authorized signatory is listed in the town bylaws.

Article 7 - This article addresses the proposed operating budget for fiscal year 2021 for all town departments to include public safety and public works. For more information about the recommended budget, please visit the [Annual Town Meeting Web site](#).

Article 8 - This article addresses the proposed assessment for fiscal year 2021 for the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District (Monty Tech). For more information about the Monty Tech budget and the town's recommended budget, please visit the [Annual Town Meeting Web site](#).

Article 9 - This article addresses the proposed assessment for fiscal year 2021 for the Quabbin Regional School District (QRSD). For more information about the QRSD budget and the town's recommended budget, please visit the [Annual Town Meeting Web site](#).

Article 10 - This article addresses the proposed assessment for fiscal year 2021 for Quabbin Regional School District (QRSD) debt. This is an annual requirement.

Article 11 - This article would appropriate \$20,000 from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund (approved in FY20) for the purposes of funding Cable Advisory Committee activity in fiscal year 2021. This activity includes the broadcast of all town meetings and, in FY20, the ability to provide remote meetings via Zoom. Revenue for this account comes from local cable companies and not the general fund.

Article 12 - This article would commission a consultant to complete the Implementation Chapter of Hubbardston's newly revised Master Plan. This \$6,000 appropriation would work in conjunction with funds from the Planning Board Revolving Account to complete the Master Plan revision. Town officials have also applied for a grant to fully fund this chapter. If the grant application is accepted, this \$6,000 appropriation would not be needed and the funds would be available for a different purpose in FY22. For more about the town's revised Master Plan efforts, [visit this site](#).

Article 13 - This article appropriates \$75,000 from free cash to make the final payment for the Town Center Project design. This project is now scheduled to begin construction in 2022! This more than \$5 million restoration project, fully supported by the Town Center Committee, was made possible through the continued appropriation of design and engineering funds by Town Meeting voters. This final investment will move the project into its final phase and allow the town to secure the state funding necessary to revamp its town center. The project includes new pavement, sidewalks, bike lanes and more! For more information, [visit this site](#).

Article 14 - This article appropriates \$30,000 from Free Cash to fund the FY21 Capital plan as recommended in the town's [5-Year Capital Plan](#). Originally the FY21 Capital Plan was more robust (as outlined in the 5-Year Capital Plan); however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic downturn, town officials have postponed capital spending until the fall when the state's financial situation becomes more clear. Postponing capital spending allows the town more flexibility to address potential revenue shortfalls or unforeseen expenses. The remaining items in the capital plan were deemed necessary: assessing the library foundation and completing the final phase of the town's computer upgrades before the currently utilized software becomes obsolete.

Article 15 - This article appropriates funds from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Undesignated Fund to fulfill payments obligations for borrowing authorized by Town Meeting in 2018. Town Meeting voters previously authorized CPA funds for repairing and Restoring the Hubbardston Public Library Roof. This article provides the FY20 payment. The final payment for this borrowing authorization will occur in FY23.

Article 16 – This article appropriates funds from the Community Preservation Act (CPA)

Undesignated Fund to fulfill payments obligations for borrowing authorized by Town Meeting in 2018. Town Meeting voters previously authorized CPA funds for repairing and Restoring the Hubbardston Public Library Roof. This article provides the FY21 payment. The final payment for this borrowing authorization will occur in FY23.

Article 17 - This article is required to address the allocations of funding available from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) surcharge and the authorized state match. This article also provides for allocations of the historic, community housing and open space categories of the CPA.

Article 18 - This article would authorize the town to utilize \$200,000 in CPA funds, to include future borrowing costs, to fund the repair and restoration of the Rainbow's End Playground. One payment of \$50,000 from the CPA Undesignated Reserve would be authorized in FY21. The town would then borrow the remaining costs to be paid back over no more than an estimated seven years per CPA recommendation. Future town meetings would authorize the cost of annual borrowing in a manner similar to Articles 15 and 16. All funds for this project would be paid from the town's CPA revenue.

Article 19 - This article would authorize the town to exclude the borrowing costs (Proposition 2.5 override for the length of the borrow) for a project restoring and repairing the Hubbardston Center School Roof. For this article to be successful, it requires a 2/3 vote at Town Meeting and a majority vote in favor of Question 1 at the Annual Town Election on June 30, 2020. School officials submitted a proposal to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) last year asking the state to support repairing the failing Center School roof structure. Normally this process takes several years as the competitive program accepts only the most dire projects from submissions across the Commonwealth. The MSBA deemed the Center School Roof a top priority for FY21 and agreed to fund nearly 60 percent of the project if the town secured funding for the remaining 40 percent. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$2,969,746. The MSBA grant would cover more than \$1.7 million of that cost. Voters are being asked to authorize the town to borrow the remaining portion (approximately \$1.3 million plus interest) over several years and pay for the borrowing costs by authorizing an override of the tax rate. A recent estimate of the annual borrowing cost would be \$150,000 (assuming a 10-year borrow period), meaning the average tax bill would increase \$87 per year. The average home value in Hubbardston is \$278,987.

Article 20 - This article would petition the Massachusetts State Legislature to change the name of the Hubbardston Board of Selectmen to the Hubbardston Select Board. If passed, this article would authorize the town of join the more than [85 towns across the Commonwealth](#) in making the chief executive board's name more inclusive.