

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF HUBBARDSTON



SPECIAL TOWN MEETING Tuesday, September 24, 2020 • 7p.m. CENTER SCHOOL

This document presents unofficial results from the Special Town Meeting held on September 24, 2020 at 7pm in the Hubbardston Center School.

Official results will be available in the form of Special Town Meeting minutes certified and distributed by the Town Clerk.

ARTICLE 1. Amendment to the FY21 Operating Budget

Town meeting voters approved an amendment to the FY21 budget. Voters originally passed a town budget at the June Annual Town Meeting; however, changes to revenue and expenses necessitated small changes for town consideration. Highlights include:

- Reduction in the use of Free Cash to supplement the operating budget
- Increase in state aid
- Increase in the town’s legal budget to FY20 levels
- Increase in the Assessing Assistant’s budget to match actual cost
- Increase in the town’s building maintenance budget to FY20 levels
- Increase in the town’s unemployment budget to meet COVID-19 demands

Please note all school expenses were voted in separate articles to increase budget transparency for voters. Here is a summary by major budget category:

PURPOSE	AMOUNT
General Government	\$850,169.99
Public Safety	\$1,361,590.00
Public Works	\$839,688.00
Indirect Costs	\$615,351.00
Debt	\$252,450.00
Total General Fund and Operating Budget	\$3,919,248.99

To see a detailed version of the budget, visit:

https://www.hubbardstonma.us/sites/g/files/vyhlif3276/f/uploads/stm_budget_document.pdf

ARTICLE 2. Quabbin Regional School District Assessment

Town Meeting voters approved the QRSD assessment totaling - \$4,879,933.00

Annual Town meeting voters in June originally rejected the QRSD School Committee’s April 2020 Certified Budget. With a majority of Quabbin towns rejecting the original budget, the QRSD School Committee recertified their annual Hubbardston assessment to the same level approved by Hubbardston voters at the Annual Town Meeting. Despite this, changes in the state’s Minimum Local Contribution formula (MLC) increased Hubbardston’s assessment by more than \$14k.

ARTICLE 3. Capital Stabilization Savings

Town meeting voters approved a measure transferring from Free Cash the sum of \$15,000 to the Capital Stabilization Fund. This fund is the town's savings account for future capital projects.

ARTICLE 4. FY21 Capital Budget

Town meeting voters approved the transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$231,800 to pay for the Fiscal Year 2021 cash capital expenses shown in the chart below.

Normally, capital expense consideration are taken up at the Annual Town Meeting; however, Town Officials deferred the purchase of capital items to buffer against the unknown impact of COVID-19. With the FY21 budget now relatively settled, Town Officials asked voters to support these important purchases.

DEPT	ASSET	Project Title	FY2021	Funding Source
DPW	Veh/Equip	Asphalt Hotbox	\$ 45,000.00	Free Cash
DPW	Veh/Equip	Dump Truck with Plow	\$ 100,000.00	Free Cash
CEM	Veh/Equip	Backpack Blower	\$ 500.00	Free Cash
CEM	Veh/Equip	Walk Behind Blower	\$ 1,300.00	Free Cash
FD	Facilities	Fire Station Exhaust Mitigation	\$ 30,000.00	Free Cash
PD	Facilities	Ceiling Repair and Insulation	\$ 10,000.00	Free Cash
PD	Veh/Equip	Vehicle camera and storage server	\$ 15,000.00	Free Cash
Parks	Facilities	Curtis Field Bandstand Roof	\$ 12,000.00	Free Cash
TA	Facilities	Slade Building Paving	\$ 18,000.00	Free Cash
			\$ 231,800.00	

ARTICLE 5. Bylaw Change – Requiring Residency for the Planning Board Associate Member

Town meeting voters approved a measure that requires the Planning Board Associate member be appointed from the residents of the town. This was not a requirement previously.

ARTICLE 6. Easement for a Communications Tower at 21 Gardner Road

Town meeting voters approved a measure that would allow the Rutland Regional Emergency Communications Center (RRECC) to access town land at 21 Gardner Road for the purposes of constructing and maintaining a new 160' communications tower. This tower is designed to improve emergency communications in Hubbardston for police, fire and ambulance. A long-term strategy for this tower aims to lease tower space to cell providers in order to improve town cell service.

A copy of the tower site plan can be found here:

[https://www.hubbardstonma.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3276/f/uploads/4c - rrecc -
hubbardston tower site plan 8.pdf](https://www.hubbardstonma.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3276/f/uploads/4c-_rrecc_-_hubbardston_tower_site_plan_8.pdf)