

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Town of Royalston
Annual Town Meeting Warrant
June 10, 2023

I, Barbara Richardson, as Town Clerk of Royalston, do certify that the following are the actions taken at the Annual Town Meeting held June 10, 2023.



Town Seal

The Town Clerk called the meeting to order at 10:11 AM with 75 voters present. The first order of business was to address the matter of electing a Temporary Moderator from the Town Meeting floor. This became necessary with the passing of former Moderator Geroge Northrop. The town followed the protocol as directed by Town Council in accordance with Section 14 of Chapter 39 of the General Laws of Massachusetts. Temporary Moderator Andrew West was nominated and elected to preside over the Annual Town Meeting. He was administered the oath of office, and swore to faithfully and impartially perform the duties of Temporary Moderator.

A tribute to George Northrop was read by Andy West and a moment of silence was observed by the meeting.

A proclamation for Christine Long declaring June 10, 2023, Chris Long day to honor her service to the town as a longtime Select Person.

Motion to allow the Athol Royalston School, and Monty Tech. budgets be voted out of order, motion made and seconded. Motion to take article 20 section 65 and 67 out of order passed. Both line items passed as read unanimously.

The reconvened Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 7:16 PM with 35 voters present. There was a motion made and seconded, to open article 15 section A vote to reconsider this article passed. Curtis Deveneau, Police Chief supported the article. A question-and-answer period was observed. A vote was taken as to whether or not to approve the article. The motion failed not receiving a 2/3 vote. The reconvened Annual closed with no changes.

Article 1. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds in the Treasury, any sums of money to meet the appropriations under this warrant, or act anything thereon.

Moved article as read, seconded.

Motion carries unanimously

Article 2. To see if the Town will authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and to issue or renew notes as may be given for a period of less than one year, in accordance with Section 17, Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws as amended, or act anything thereon.

Moved article as read, seconded.

Motion carries unanimously

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to fix the FY2024 salaries and compensation of all elected officers of the Town as provided by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 108, or act anything thereon.

Moved article as read, seconded.

Motion carries unanimously

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to accept and appropriate the sum of \$800,000 or such other amount as is made available for engineering, plans and authorized roadwork according to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 90, and/or STRAP grant, the same to be spent with the approval of the Select Board and Mass DOT, or act anything thereon.

Moved article as read, seconded.

Motion carries unanimously

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash to Stabilization and/or Capital Stabilization, or act anything thereon.

Motion to table this article was made, seconded.

Motion to table carries unanimously

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Stabilization, a sum of money to pay a portion of costs incurred for the emergency work required to remediate a diesel fuel spill which took place on March 2, 2023 at the Department of Public Works headquarters, or act anything thereon.

Motion to transfer from Stabilization the sum of \$3,600.00, seconded.

Motion carries with 1 opposed

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Stabilization \$14,886.23 to pay the debt service on the lease/purchase agreement for the Fire Department brush truck (fourth payment of a six-year lease/purchase authorized by the vote of the May 10, 2019, Annual Town Meeting, Article 22), or act anything thereon.

Motion to take from Capitol Stabilization the sum of \$14,886.23, seconded.

Motion carries unanimously

Article 8. To see if the Town will transfer \$8,621 from Stabilization to pay the Town's FY2024 share of the debt service for the Athol-Royalston Regional High School MSBA Loan for the accelerated repair project, (the third of ten payments), or act anything thereon.

Motion made to take from Capitol Stabilization the sum of \$8,621.00, seconded.

Motion carries unanimously

Article 9. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$49,185.60 to pay debt service (the eighth payment of a 35-year loan) on the borrowing authorized by the vote of the May 11, 2012 Annual Town Meeting, Article 43, and amended by the vote of the December 28, 2012 Special Town Meeting, Article 2, for the Royalston Wastewater Treatment Plant, or act anything thereon.

Moved article as read, seconded.

Motion carries unanimously

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$100,187.50 to operate the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Sewer System for FY2024, the amounts to be raised from user fees, or act anything thereon.

Moved article as read, seconded.

Motion carries with 3 opposed

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for maintenance and capital expenses at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and collection system, including any incidental or related costs, or act anything thereon.

Moved article as read, seconded.

Motion carries with 2 opposed

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$1,000 for FY2024 capital expenditures for the sewer system, including any incidental and related costs, or act anything thereon.

*Motion made to transfer \$1,000.00 from Capitol Stabilization, seconded.
Motion carries with 3 opposed*

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 and transfer said amount to the Tax Title Revolving Account, or act anything thereon.

Moved article as read, seconded. Motion carries unanimously

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation Act, Fiscal Year 2024 estimated annual revenues in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for committee administrative expenses, community preservation projects and other expenses in Fiscal Year 2024, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation, or act anything thereon.

Appropriations:

From FY2024 estimated revenues for Committee Administrative Expenses \$ 3,000

Reserves

From FY2024 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve \$ 6,000

From FY2024 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve \$ 6,000

From FY2024 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve \$ 6,000

From FY2024 estimated revenues for Budgeted Reserve \$37,750

Moved article as read, seconded. Motion carries unanimously

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to borrow \$196,000 for the purpose of funding the purchases listed below, including all incidental and related costs; and to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, in accordance with M.G.L. c.44, Sec.7 or 8, or any other enabling authority, to issue any bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and provided further, however, that the borrowing authorized hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters of the Town, of a Proposition 2-1/2, so called, debt exclusion question, or act anything thereon.

A-Hybrid Police Car	\$ 61,000
B-Hydraulic Heavy-Duty Lift System for Town Garage	\$ 55,000
C-Vibratory Roller and Trailer with Dust Control	<u>\$ 80,000</u>
	\$196,000

*Motion made to separate items in this article to be voted individually, seconded
Motion to separate carries with 10 opposed. 75 voters present*

<i>A-Hybrid Police Car</i>	<i>32 in favor - 21 opposed-fails</i>
<i>**RECONVENED VOTE</i>	<i>21 IN FAVOR -5 OPPOSED (35 voters present)</i>
<i>B-Hydraulic Heav-duty lift system</i>	<i>61 in favor - 2 opposed-carries</i>
<i>C-Vibratory Roller and trailer</i>	<i>61 in favor - 2 opposed-carries</i>

Article 16. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$8,000 for costs associated with placing a conservation restriction on the town owned parcel 255/011-0-001-0000.0 at 18 Main Street, formerly known as Cloutier's Pete and Henry's, or act anything thereon.

Moved article as read, seconded.

Motion carries with 1 opposed

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$5,000 for one set of structural turnout gear for the Fire Department, or act anything thereon.

Motion to transfer from Capitol Stabilization the sum of \$5,000.00, seconded

Motion carries with 1 opposed

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,900 to fund a portion of the cost for the cleaning and structural inspection of the Town water tank located at Pleasant Street, including all incidental and related costs, or act anything thereon.

Moved article as read, seconded.

Motion carries with 8 opposed

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$38,601.23 to pay the first payment of debt service on the borrowing authorized by the vote of the June 11, 2022 Annual Town Meeting, Article 16, for the purchase of a DPW dump/sander cab and chassis and a DPW pickup truck and for Whitney Hall painting and repairs, or act anything thereon.

Moved article as read, seconded

Motion carries unanimously

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or to transfer from available funds a sum of money to fund the FY2024 budgets as follows, or act anything thereon.

Moved to Raise and Appropriate the sum of \$2,669,198.00 to fund the FY24 Budgets as follows, seconded.

Motion carries unanimously

**Will denote a change made from the floor.*

		FY 23Final	FY 2024	FY 2024	FY 2024	Final
	ACCOUNT NAME	ATM	Dept Reqst	Selectbd	FinCom	ATM
	GENERAL GOVERNMENT					
1	Moderators Salary	100	100	100	100	100
2	Select Board Chair Salary	3,769	3,957	5,000	5,000	5,000
3	Select Board Vice Chair Salary	3,000	3,150	4,200	4,200	4,200
4	Select Board Clerk Salary	3,016	3,169	4,200	4,200	4,200
5	Select Board Secretary Salary	3,151	3,151	3,309	3,309	3,309
6	Select Board Misc. Expense	3,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
7	Select Board Grant Writing Expense	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
8	Admin Asst Wages	22,345	24,700	24,700	24,700	24,700
9	Admin Asst Expense	1,800	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
10	Town Accountant Salary	18,450	18,500	18,500	18,500	18,500
11	Certification Town Accountant					
12	Town Accountant Expense	6,644	6,844	6,844	6,844	6,844
13	Board of Assessors Chair Salary	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
14	Board of Assessors Member Salary	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
15	Board of Assessors Member Salary	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
16	Assessors Expense	40,700	43,000	43,000	43,000	43,000

17	Treasurers Salary	17,774	18,218	18,662	18,662	18,662
18	Treasurers Expense	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800
19	Harpers Payroll	3,000	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,200
20	Software (Treasurer portion)	2,100	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600
21	Custodians of Tax Title Salary	50	50	50	50	50
22	Tax Collector Salary	4,433	4,544	4,655	4,655	4,655
23	Asst Collector Salary	20,519	21,032	21,545	21,545	21,545
24	Tax Collector Certification	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
25	Tax Collectors Expense	8,755	8,877	8,878	8,878	8,878
26	Finance Dir Salary	5,227	5,358	5,488	5,488	5,488
27	Finance Dir Expense	500	500	500	500	500
28	Finance Dir Software	0	5418	5418	5418	5,418
29	Officer Bonding	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
30	Information Technology Expense	9,413	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
31	IT Services and Support	4,075	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
32	Legal Expense	11,000	15,000	16,100	16,100	16,100
33	Town Clerks Salary	17,425	17,861	18,297	18,297	18,297
34	Town Clerks Expense	4,300	4,400	4,400	4,400	4,400
36	Election Expense	6,826	6,314	6,314	6,314	6,314
37	Energy Committee Expense	500	500	500	500	500
38	Conservation Commission Expense	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
39	Historic Commission	300	300	300	300	300
40	Z.B.A. Expense	600	600	600	600	600
41	Planning Board Expense	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
42	Planning Board Clerk	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
43	Open Space & Rec Comm Expense	200	200	200	200	200
44	Event Committee Expense	500	500	500	500	500
45	Agriculture Committee Expense	600	600	600	600	600
46	J.N. Bartlett Treasurer Salary	50	50	50	50	50
	PUBLIC SAFETY					
47	Police Dept. Wages	89,341	115,865	100,839	100,839	100,839
48	PD Bridge Academy	17,064	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800
49	Police Dept. Expense	28,719	29,204	29,204	29,204	29,204
50	Fire Chief Salary	26,500	35,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
51	Fire Dept. Wages	61,000	61,000	64,500	64,500	64,500
52	Fire Dept. Expense	45,500	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
53	Emerg Mgmt. Director Salary	2,000	2,000	2,100	2,100	2,100
54	Asst Emerg Manager	500	500	525	525	525
55	Civilian Defense/Emerg Mgmt. Expense	5,200	6,120	6,120	6,120	6,120
56	24 Hr Dispatch Expense	27,573	29,021	29,021	29,021	29,021
57	Building Inspector Salary	15,160	17,225	15,918	15,918	15,918
58	Bldg. Inspector Clerk	2,614	2,926	2,745	2,745	2,745
59	Building Inspector Expense	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
60	Bldg Insp Code Enforcement	3,600	4,600	1,600	1,600	1,600
61	Animal Inspector Salary	836	878	878	878	878

62	Animal Control Expense	7,389	7,854	7,854	7,854	7,854
63	Tree Department Expense	350	750	750	750	750
64	DPW-Highway Tree Maintenance Fund Expense	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
	EDUCATION					
65	Athol- Royalston Reg Assessment	721,118	723,796	723,796	723,796	723,796
67	Monty Tech Assessment	57,408	71,651	76,755	76,755	76,755
	PUBLIC WORKS					
68	Public Halls/Municipal Bldg Expense	94,710	106,350	106,350	106,350	106,350
69	Public Halls/Municipal Custodian Wages	8,000	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500
70	DPW-Highway Salary	283,943	265,700	264,120	264,120	264,120
71	DPW - Highway unused sicktime payout	6,528	10,055	10,055	10,055	10,055
72	DPW - Highway Salary Overtime	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
73	DPW-Highway General Expense	90,800	124,000	124,200	124,200	124,200
74	DPW-Highway Maintenance Expense	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
75	DPW - Sewer Maintenance	10,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
76	Snow & Ice	200,500	204,500	200,500	200,500	200,500
77	Street Lights Expense	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
78	Select Board - Care of Town Clocks Salary	52	52	52	52	55 *
79	Care of Cemeteries/Cem Expense	300	300	300	300	300
80	Cemetery Comm Chair Salary	275	275	275	275	275
81	Cemetery Comm Member Salary	250	250	250	250	250
82	Cemetery Comm Member Salary	250	250	250	250	250
83	Board of Health Chair Salary	1,783	1,828	1,872	1,872	1,872
84	Board of Health Member Salary	1,561	1,474	1,639	1,639	1,510 *
85	Board of Health Clerk Salary	1,438	1,600	1,510	1,510	1,639 *
86	Board of Health Expense	77,595	86,525	86,525	86,525	86,525
87	Board of Health Landfill Monitoring Expense	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
88	Board of Health Wages	22,550	25,723	25,224	25,224	25,224
89	Board of Health Mgmt. Acct Salary	2,684	2,752	3,007	3,007	3,007
	HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES					
90	Veterans Services Expense	3,910	3,996	3,996	3,996	3,996
91	Veterans Benefits Expense	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
92	Council on Aging Expense	926	926	900	900	900
93	Elderly Transportation Expense	500	500	500	500	500
94	Library Wages	49,388	60,632	57,515	57,515	57,515
95	Library Expenses	29,288	30,678	30,078	30,078	30,078
96	Memorial Day Expense	700	700	700	700	700
	BENEFITS, INSURANCE & MISC.					
97	Short Term Interest Expense	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
98	Worcester Regional Retirement	74,266	72,577	72,577	72,577	72,577

99	Workmen's Compensation Expense	15,115	15,115	16,000	16,000	16,000
100	Unemployment - Contributory Expense	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
101	Health Insurance Expense	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
102	Town Share Medicare Expense	13,000	13,000	13,500	13,500	13,500
103	Liability Insurance Expense	43,057	40,751	44,000	44,000	44,000
104	Insurance - Police & Fire Liability Expense	16,132	16,132	16,585	16,585	16,585
105	Reserve Account	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
106	Other Non-Union Employee Benefits					

TOTAL	\$2,558,596	\$2,683,125	\$2,669,195	\$2,669,195	\$2,666,198
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Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money and transfer said sum to Stabilization, or act anything thereon.

*Motion made to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,985.00 and transfer to stabilization, seconded.
Motion carries unanimously*

Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Assessors to use a portion of funds in the Treasury to reduce the tax rate for this coming year, or act anything thereon.

Moved article as read, seconded.

Motion carries with 2 opposed

*Motion made to reconvene the Annual Town Meeting to June 30, 2023 at 7P.M. at the Town Hall, seconded.
Motion Carries unanimously.*