## TOWN OF NORTH READING MASSACHUSETTS

## SPRING ANNUAL

## TOWN MEETING WARRANT



MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2024

## 7:00 P.M.

North Reading High School, 189 Park Street
SELECT BOARD WARRANT ARTICLE INFORMATIONAL HEARING MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024 AT 8:00 P.M.

## PROPOSITION $2 ½$ OVERRIDE ELECTION TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024

## ***IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING TOWN MEETING***

It is the intention of the Town Moderator and Select Board to convene and conduct the Spring Annual Town Meeting at North Reading Middle/High School located at 189 Park Street on Monday, June 10, 2024 at 7:00 PM.

Under state law, only residents who were registered as voters in North Reading as of May 31, 2024 may participate at this Town Meeting. Residents who were not registered as of that date may attend Town Meeting but may not vote and will be seated separate from registered voters.

This warrant consists of 34 articles to conduct the legislative business of the Town, however the following articles are of particular note:

## - Article 16 - FY 2025 Operating Budget

This article funds the Town's operating budget for the upcoming year. This year, two motions will be proposed. The first will be to fund Town government including the public schools to the extent allowed under the limits of state law (Proposition $2^{1 / 2}$ ) as indicated in the column entitled "Proposition $21 / 2$ Limit". The second motion will be to authorize appropriations above the limit of state law as indicated in the column entitled "Override Amount" contingent on a vote at a ballot election scheduled for June 18, 2024. More information about how to vote will be publicized in the coming weeks.

- Article 18 - Home-Rule Petition: Establish Means-Tested Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption

This article would authorize the Town to petition the Legislature for permission to establish a property tax relief program for qualifying senior citizens. The amount by which taxes for qualifying seniors is reduced would be reallocated among all residential property taxpayers.

- Articles 30-32 - Amend Zoning By-Law to Comply with State Law

These articles establish a new overlay district that complies with the provisions of Section 3A of MGL c. 40A. The district, like the existing overlay district affecting these properties, allows multi-family housing by right, and establishes regulations for that overlay district, including parking. The overlay district affects two parcels currently located within the Industrial Office zoning district. The provisions of the underlying zoning district, and other zoning overlay districts affecting the properties, remain intact.

- Article 34 - Fire Station Reconstruction Project Bidding Phase Funding

This article would fund expenses associated with bidding for the Fire Station reconstruction project. Funding this article would allow the project to be bid out and the results reported to and considered at a future Town Meeting.

The Select Board wishes to call your attention to a Warrant Article Informational Hearing on Monday, May 20, 2024 at 8:00 PM. Information about the warrant article hearing, including a recording of the hearing, may be found at www.northreadingma.gov.

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# Report of the North Reading Finance Committee June Town Meeting 2024 

To the citizens of North Reading:
The Finance Committee (FinCom) recommendations in this report are meant to help voters make well-informed decisions at our June 10, 2024 Annual Town Meeting. The FinCom's role is to receive the individual operating budget requests from each Town department, review the requests, provide feedback, and hold open meetings to discuss. Our goal is to recommend a budget that addresses the Town's needs, is fiscally responsible, and sustainable.

In an effort to provide a snapshot of the sources of town revenue and town expenses and how this breaks down on the homeowners' real estate tax bill we once again provide a series of charts displaying these data. New numbers for FY25 were not available hence, while the percentages are somewhat unchanged, the dollar amounts will vary for FY25.

The FinCom would like to call your attention to Article 16 as this Article is different than what is considered in the Town's typical Warrants. Article 16 is the Town's operating budget. In a normal year, there is one budget to approve. This year, Article 16 includes a balanced budget (with necessary reductions) and a second budget with additional funding contingent upon an increase in taxes above what is typical in a normal year, known as a "Proposition $21 / 2$ Override". Proposition $21 / 2$ in Massachusetts places a $2.5 \%$ limit on property tax increases. Historically inflation has been above $2.5 \%$ for a significant majority of the years since its passing into law in 1980, thus resulting in a real decline in local tax revenue and local spending ability.

As we plan for the upcoming fiscal year we do so with the knowledge that, without a general override, maintaining the current level of services will not be possible. Increased needs and inflation which has grown over the years makes this an impossible task. Services, wages and other expenses increase at a greater rate than the mandated $2.5 \%$ tax cap set by the state. The Town has been very prudent with expenses and has not sought an override for a considerable period of time despite inflationary pressures. This year, without an override, some budget requests have been denied, various capital items have been unfunded, vacant positions will remain vacant and some personnel and services may need to be eliminated.

Funding a tax cap override will allow the town to balance the annual budget while maintaining the quality education programs, public safety and other municipal services the town has come to expect. We urge you to carefully consider affirmative action on the override budget. Both budgets are presented in the warrant.

We must continue to carefully guard resources for the future with various actions of the Capital budget to include support for needed equipment, roads and structural repairs. Work on plans for the fire station renovation are almost complete. You will find a warrant article at this town meeting that requests funding to bring us to completion of the pre-construction phases of this project. In addition, the override budget includes monies necessary to fund the Chestnut Street bridge project, the Burroughs Road culvert replacement project and the purchase of a new
ladder truck - all necessary items.
We are all experiencing the negative effects of the current economy both as individuals and as municipal and school departments. It is not an easy time. However, if we wish to see the gains achieved through quality education programs, efficient town government, public safety and infrastructure maintenance be sustained we will all have to stretch. The override attempts to maintain current services while allowing for some limited but necessary increases in spending to underfunded areas.

We appreciate the efforts made by all department heads, boards/committees, the Town Administrator, and all the staff in the Finance Department for their work assembling the budget. We also appreciate the Town's engagement in the process through the various budget meetings and informational sessions held the past two months. Through the hard work of municipal and school leaders and the financial planning team the challenges of providing two budgets - one with some unmet needs and an override budget meeting our town's greater needs, are presented. Once again, we urge you to consider approving the override budget.

Abby Hurlbut, Chair
Dan Mills, Vice Chair
Matt Davis, Clerk
Dan Pulver
Janene Imbriano
Don Kelliher
Tim Sutherland (Resigned to be seated on School Committee May 8, 2024)
Nick Mirlocca
David Cross

# ESTIMATED ANNUAL TAX ALLOCATION FOR A \$750,000 PROPERTY VALUE (\$10,500 Tax Bill) 

|  | Share of \$10,500 Tax Bill | $\begin{gathered} \% \text { of } \\ \text { Tax Bill } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Education | \$5,204 | 50\% |
| Public, Vocational, Technical \& Agricultural Schools |  |  |
| Pension \& Benefits | \$1,927 | 18\% |
| Current Town and School Employees and Retirees |  |  |
| Exempt Debt Service <br> Middle/High School Construction, Police Station Renovations, Hood School Renovations, Batchelder School Renovations, Smith Property, etc. | \$829 | 8\% |
| Police Department | \$606 | 6\% |
| General Services <br> Library, Town Clerk, Elder Services, Veterans' Services, Code Enforcement, Community Planning Commission, Conservation Commission, Parks \& Recreation, etc. | \$540 | 5\% |
| Administration \& Finance <br> General Town Administrative Office, Finance Department, Town Counsel, Human Resources, IT Department, General Insurance, Reserve Fund, etc. | \$488 | 5\% |
| Fire Department | \$464 | 4\% |
| Public Works <br> Road Maintenance, Engineering, Snow \& Ice operations, Tree Maintenance, Solid Waste Management, Street Lighting, Grounds and Cemetery Maintenance, Machinery Maintenance, Facilities Maintenance, etc. | \$442 | 4\% |
|  | \$10,500 | 100\% |

## USES OF FUNDS - FY2024



| Education | $\$ 38,262,928$ | $47 \%$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Pension \& Benefits | $14,605,110$ | $18 \%$ |
| Debt Exclusion Taxes | $6,302,988$ | $8 \%$ |
| Public Works | $4,768,847$ | $6 \%$ |
| Police | $4,396,853$ | $5 \%$ |
| Fire | $4,087,918$ | $5 \%$ |
| General Services | $3,950,612$ | $5 \%$ |
| Administration \& Finance | $3,740,272$ | $4 \%$ |
| Non-Exempt Debt (Annual Capital Projects) | $1,266,768$ | $2 \%$ |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | $\mathbf{\$ 8 1 , 3 8 2 , 2 9 6}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0} \%$ |

## SOURCES OF REVENUE - FY2024



Residential Real Estate Taxes
\$48,918,171
60\%
State Aid 10,092,621 13\%

Commercial/Industrial Real Estate Taxes
Debt Exclusion Taxes

Motor Vehicle Excise Tax
TOTAL REVENUE
6,670,660 8\%

$$
6,059,595
$$

7\%

Other Financing Sources
3,640,304

$$
5 \%
$$

Other Fees \& Taxes
3,245,945

2,755,000 4\%
\$81,382,296 100\%

## TOWN of NORTH READING FY2025 REVENUE FORECAST June 10, 2024

|  | FY 2024 Budget | FY 2025 Prop $21 / 2$ Limited Revenue | FY 2025 Override Projection |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| TAXES: |  |  |  |
| PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTED LEVY LIMIT | 53,386,821 | 56,205,453 | 56,205,453 |
| AMENDED NEW GROWTH | - | - | - |
| ADD 2.5\% | 1,334,671 | 1,405,136 | 1,405,136 |
| NEW GROWTH | 1,483,962 | 479,362 | 479,362 |
| ADJUSTED LEVY LIMIT | 56,205,453 | 58,585,590 | 58,585,590 |
| DEBT EXCLUSION - PERMANENT | 1,157,679 | 816,125 | 816,125 |
| DEBT EXCLUSION - HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE | 4,873,765 | 4,897,486 | 4,897,486 |
| OPERATING OVERRIDE |  |  | 10,000,000 |
| EXCESS LEVY CAPACITY | $(38,516)$ | - | (7,114,773) |
| TOTAL TAXES | 62,198,381 | 64,299,201 | 67,184,428 |
| STATE AID: CHERRY SHEET - EXPANDED |  |  |  |
| CHAPTER 70 | 7,492,247 | 7,727,287 | 7,727,287 |
| UNRESTRICTED GENERAL GOVERNMENT AID | 2,122,634 | 2,143,860 | 2,143,860 |
| ANNUAL FORMULA LOCAL AID | - | - | - |
| VETERANS' BENEFITS | 88,249 | 82,945 | 82,945 |
| POLICE CAREER INCENTIVE | - | - |  |
| EXEMPTIONS: BLIND, ELDERLY, SURV SP | 64,982 | 85,757 | 85,757 |
| CHAPTER TUITION REIMBURSEMENT | 322 | 13,523 | 13,523 |
| SCHOOL LUNCH -OFFSET RECEIPT | - | - |  |
| PUBLIC LIBRARIES - OFFSET RECEIPT | 30,780 | 31,601 | 31,601 |
| STATE OWNED LAND | 84,141 | 84,211 | 84,211 |
|  | 9,883,355 | 10,169,184 | 10,169,184 |
| STATE AID: OTHER |  |  |  |
| SBAB REIMBURSEMENT | 243,393 |  |  |
| TOTAL STATE AID | 10,126,748 | 10,169,184 | 10,169,184 |
| LOCAL RECEIPTS: |  |  |  |
| MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE | 2,570,000 | 2,755,000 | 2,755,000 |
| PENALTIES \& INTEREST | 205,000 | 225,000 | 225,000 |
| PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES | 300,000 | 325,000 | 325,000 |
| TRASH FEE | 1,250,000 | 1,301,000 | 1,301,000 |
| FEES | 115,000 | 120,000 | 120,000 |
| CEMETERY | 25,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE | 40,000 | 45,000 | 45,000 |
| LICENSES \& PERMITS | 500,000 | 540,000 | 540,000 |
| FINES \& FORFEITS | 4,500 | 4,500 | 4,500 |
| INVESTMENT INCOME | 300,000 | 785,000 | 785,000 |
| MUNICIPAL MEDICAID | - | - | - |
| MISC. RECURRING- MEALS TAX | 30,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| MISC. NON-RECURRING | 240,000 | 200,000 | 200,000 |
| TOTAL LOCAL RECEIPTS | 5,579,500 | 6,360,500 | 6,360,500 |
| REVENUE SUB-TOTAL | 77,904,629 | 80,828,885 | 83,714,112 |

## OTHER FINANCING SOURCES:

| TRNSFR FR RESERVE SEPTIC LOANS | - | - | - |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DEBT SERVICE STABILIZATION FUND | 1,266,768 | 1,546,860 | 746,860 |
| CIPC-DEBT SERVICE STABILIZATION FUND | - | - | - |
| DEBT EXCLUSION/BATCH PREMIUM | 43,915 | 634 | 634 |
| TRANSFER FROM CELL TOWER ACCT. | 300,000 | 300,000 | 300,000 |
| TRANSFER FROM CEMETERY ACCT. | 25,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| TRANSFER FROM PERPETUAL CARE | - | - | - |
| TRNSFR FROM AMBULANCE RESERVE | 700,000 | 723,940 | 723,940 |
| TRANSFER FROM WATER (INDIRECT) | 524,267 | 537,374 | 537,374 |
| TRANSFER FROM RECREATION (INDIRECT) | 1,283 | 1,283 | 1,283 |
| TRANSFER FROM SOLID WASTE STAB | - | - | - |
| TRANSFER FROM 104 LOWELL RD. REVOLVING | 26,000 | - | - |
| TRANSFER FROM PREMIUM FOR SALE OF BONDS |  |  | - |
| FREE CASH | 707,731 | 34,043 | 34,043 |
| PFA STABILIZATION | 45,340 | 195,105 | 195,105 |
| HEALTH INSURANCE TRUST FUND |  |  | - |
| REVENUE SURPLUS |  |  | - |
|  | 3,640,304 | 3,364,238 | 2,564,238 |
| TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE | 81,544,933 | 84,193,123 | 86,278,350 |
| Expenditures | - | - | - |
| Variance | 81,544,933 | 84,193,123 | 86,278,350 |

## TOWN of NORTH READING FY25 APPROPRIATION PROJECTION June 10, 2024

| DEPARTMENT | FY24 <br> Revised Budget |  | FY25 Prop 2 1/2 Limit |  | FY25 Override Amount |  | FY25Prop $21 / 2+$ OverrideTotal |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| SELECT BOARD | \$ | 31,528 | \$ | 37,199 | \$ | - | \$ | 37,199 |
| MODERATOR | \$ | 50 | \$ | 50 | \$ | - | \$ | 50 |
| TOWN ADMIN. | \$ | 392,686 | \$ | 367,014 | \$ | 75,000 | \$ | 442,014 |
| HUMAN RESOURCES | \$ | 245,356 | \$ | 249,432 | \$ | - | \$ | 249,432 |
| SALARY POOL | \$ | 408,827 | \$ | 774,435 | \$ | 21,763 | \$ | 796,198 |
| FINANCE COMMITTEE | \$ | 2,050 | \$ | 2,050 | \$ | - | \$ | 2,050 |
| RESERVE FUND | \$ | 110,000 | \$ | 110,000 | \$ | - | \$ | 110,000 |
| FINANCE DIRECTOR | \$ | 226,092 | \$ | 227,613 | \$ | - | \$ | 227,613 |
| ACCOUNTING | \$ | 238,112 | \$ | 245,168 | \$ | - | \$ | 245,168 |
| Accounting Capital | \$ | 3,000 | \$ | - | \$ | - | \$ | - |
| ASSESSING | \$ | 276,285 | \$ | 284,869 | \$ | - | \$ | 284,869 |
| Assessing Capital | \$ | - | \$ | - | \$ | - | \$ | - |
| TREASURY | \$ | 77,508 | \$ | 77,508 | \$ | - | \$ | 77,508 |
| COLLECTION | \$ | 341,676 | \$ | 336,629 | \$ | - | \$ | 336,629 |
| LEGAL COUNSEL | \$ | 130,500 | \$ | 130,500 | \$ | - | \$ | 130,500 |
| INFO SYSTEMS | \$ | 681,656 | \$ | 687,514 | \$ | - | \$ | 687,514 |
| Info Systems Capital | \$ | 40,000 | \$ | 23,000 | \$ | 17,000 | \$ | 40,000 |
| CONSERVATION COMM. | \$ | 45,091 | \$ | 74,308 | \$ | - | \$ | 74,308 |
| COMMUNITY PLANNING | \$ | 217,364 | \$ | 211,269 | \$ | - | \$ | 211,269 |
| CPC Misc. Capital | \$ | - | \$ | - | \$ | - | \$ | - |
| BOARD OF APPEALS | \$ | 12,876 | \$ | 12,876 | \$ | - | \$ | 12,876 |
| PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR | \$ | 30,000 | \$ | - | \$ | - | \$ | - |
| POLICE DEPARTMENT | \$ | 4,222,797 | \$ | 4,156,728 | \$ | - | \$ | 4,156,728 |
| Police Misc. Capital | \$ | 144,056 | \$ | 81,099 | \$ | 80,000 | \$ | 161,099 |
| FIRE DEPARTMENT | \$ | 3,997,418 | \$ | 4,200,977 | \$ | 59,451 | \$ | 4,260,428 |
| Fire Misc. Capital | \$ | 90,500 | \$ | 78,500 | \$ | 21,000 | \$ | 99,500 |
| CODE ENFORCEMENT | \$ | 390,301 | \$ | 394,026 | \$ | 10,000 | \$ | 404,026 |
| EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT | \$ | 3,478 | \$ | 3,478 | \$ | - | \$ | 3,478 |
| DEPT. of PUBLIC WORKS | \$ | 3,010,658 | \$ | 3,091,248 | \$ | 30,000 | \$ | 3,121,248 |
| DPW Misc. Capital | \$ | 54,000 | \$ | 66,000 | \$ | - | \$ | 66,000 |
| FUEL | \$ | 277,684 | \$ | 225,000 | \$ | 25,500 | \$ | 250,500 |
| SANITATION | \$ | 1,426,506 | \$ | 1,445,495 | \$ | - | \$ | 1,445,495 |
| HEALTH | \$ | 357,701 | \$ | 353,261 | \$ | 10,000 | \$ | 363,261 |
| PUBLIC SERVICES DIRECTOR | \$ | 102,375 | \$ | 103,360 | \$ | - | \$ | 103,360 |
| TOWN CLERK and Elections | \$ | 295,746 | \$ | 331,152 | \$ | - | \$ | 331,152 |
| Town Clerk Misc. Capital | \$ | - | \$ | - | \$ | - | \$ | - |
| ELDER SERVICES | \$ | 235,345 | \$ | 257,443 | \$ | 45,500 | \$ | 302,943 |
| Elder Services Capital | \$ | 4,731 | \$ | - | \$ | - | \$ | - |
| VETERANS' SERVICES | \$ | 339,037 | \$ | 242,173 | \$ | 100,000 | \$ | 342,173 |
| LIBRARY | \$ | 752,257 | \$ | 770,431 | \$ | - | \$ | 770,431 |
| Library Capital | \$ | - | \$ | - | \$ | - | \$ | - |
| RECREATION | \$ | 277,316 | \$ | 284,977 | \$ | 53,800 | \$ | 338,777 |
| Recreation Misc. Capital | \$ | - | \$ | - | \$ | - | \$ | - |
| YOUTH SERVICES | \$ | 76,824 | \$ | 81,120 | \$ | 25,000 | \$ | 106,120 |
|  |  |  |  |  | \$ | - | \$ | - |
| GENERAL GOVT. SUB TOTAL | \$ | 19,569,387 | \$ | 20,017,902 | \$ | 574,014 | \$ | 20,591,916 |
| SCHOOL OPERATIONS | \$ | 37,319,595 | \$ | 38,772,128 | \$ | 1,436,318 | \$ | 40,208,446 |
| GEN. GOVT. \& SCHOOL SUB TOTAL | \$ | 56,888,982 | \$ | 58,790,030 | \$ | 2,010,332 | \$ | 60,800,362 |

UNAPPROPRIATED and OTHER SHARED COSTS:
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
REGIONAL SCHOOL ASSESSMENT DEBT SERVICE NON-EXEMPT DEBT SERVICE EXEMPT DEBT SERVICE LITTLE SCHOOL ROOF DEBT SERVICE - SHORT TERM INTEREST EMPLOYEE BENEFITS
OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

| $\$$ | 943,333 | $\$$ | $1,099,403$ | $\$$ | - | $\$$ | $1,099,403$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | :--- | ---: | :--- | ---: |
| $\$$ | $1,332,906$ | $\$$ | $1,421,835$ | $\$$ | - | $\$$ | $1,421,835$ |
| $\$$ | $6,031,444$ | $\$$ | $5,713,611$ | $\$$ | - | $\$$ | $5,713,611$ |
| $\$$ | 67,275 | $\$$ | 65,025 | $\$$ | - | $\$$ | 65,025 |
| $\$$ | 138,000 | $\$$ | 60,000 | $\$$ | - | $\$$ | 60,000 |
| $\$$ | $14,605,110$ | $\$$ | $15,313,813$ | $\$$ | 74,895 | $\$$ | $15,388,708$ |
| $\$$ | 375,000 | $\$$ | 425,000 | $\$$ | - | $\$$ | 425,000 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\$$ | 208,956 | $\$$ | 213,106 | $\$$ | - | $\$$ | 213,106 |
| $\$$ | 30,780 | $\$$ | 30,216 | $\$$ | - | $\$$ | 30,216 |
| $\$$ | 381,171 | $\$$ | 450,000 | $\$$ | - | $\$$ | 450,000 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\$$ | 541,976 | $\$$ | 611,084 | $\$$ | - | $\$$ | 611,084 |
| $\$$ | $24,655,951$ | $\$$ | $25,403,093$ | $\$$ | 74,895 | $\$$ | $25,477,988$ |

TO STABILIZATION
STATE \& COUNTY CHARGES
CHERRY SHEET OFFSETS
RESERVE for ABATE \& EXEMPT.
SNOW \& ICE DEFICIT
RETIREMENTS
GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE
OTHER COSTS SUB TOTAL

| $\$$ | $81,544,933$ | $\$$ | $84,193,123$ | $\$$ | $2,085,227^{1}$ | $\$$ | $86,278,350$ |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| $\$$ | $81,544,933$ | $\$$ | $84,193,123$ |  |  |  | $\$$ |
| $\$$ | $(0)$ | $\$$ | 0 |  |  | $86,278,350$ |  |

${ }^{1}$ An additional $\$ 800,000$ in override funding will be used to fund Debt Service

## PROCEDURE FOR TOWN MEETING

1. Moderator presides, using Roberts Rules of Order, except as provided by the General Laws, the Charter and By-Laws.
2. Articles in the warrant are considered in the order in which they appear, but voters may move to consider them out of order. (This takes a $4 / 5$ vote of the Town Meeting.)
3. In order for an article to be considered by Town Meeting, it must be moved and seconded. The article is then open for debate by all in attendance.
4. To speak at Town Meeting, stand and say Mr. Moderator. After being recognized by the Moderator, state name and address before making any remarks.
5. Debate may be ended by a voter's "Move the question."
6. Amendments to original motion must be presented in writing to the Moderator. Upon being seconded and discussed, the Moderator calls for a vote. If passed, the original motion, as amended, is then voted.
7. Reconsideration of a vote is permitted only once and only at that session of Town Meeting.

The above information was prepared by the North Reading League of Women Voters.

## A CITIZEN'S CHECKLIST FOR TOWN MEETING

To be considered on each vote:

1. IS IT NECESSARY? Or is it something that is not really needed or perhaps already being provided by a private or public group?
2. CAN WE AFFORD IT? Remember, there is no limit to what we would like, but there is a limit to what we can afford.
3. WHAT WILL IT ULTIMATELY COST? Many proposals are like icebergs - only a small fraction of the total cost is apparent on the surface.
4. HOW WILL IT AFFECT BASIC LIBERTIES? If it imposes unreasonable or illegal restraints on your life or that of others it should be vigorously opposed.
5. IS IT IN THE BALANCED BEST INTEREST OF ALL? If it is designed to benefit a small group of special interests, while taking unfair advantage of others, work for its defeat.
6. IS IT A "FOOT IN THE DOOR" PROPOSITION? Compromising a little now may bring an oppressive burden later, either in more regulations or more taxes or a combination of both.
7. DOES IT PLACE TOO MUCH POWER IN THE HANDS OF ONE INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP? Once the decisive power is granted to a non-elected public official or a commission as a municipal authority, the private citizen lose effective control.
8. IS ITS APPEAL BASED ON EMOTIONAL PROPAGANDA OR FACTS? The further a proposition gets away from facts, the more critical one should be.

## MOTIONS CUSTOMARY TO NORTH READING TOWN MEETINGS

## MOTION TO ADMIT

A motion to admit non-voters to any session of a Town Meeting, which requires a majority vote of the Meeting in accordance with Town By-laws.

## MOTION TO DISPENSE WITH THE READING OF THE WARRANT AND THE RETURN OF SERVICE BY THE CONSTABLE <br> This waives the requirement to read each article in its entirety as it is printed in the Warrant, which allows the Town Meeting to go directly to the reading of a motion under each article. It also waives the requirement to read the "Return of Service" which is the Constable's attestation that the Warrant was properly posted in accordance with the Town's By-laws.

## MAIN MOTION

The initial motion made under each article to bring it before the Town Meeting for discussion and action. There must be a main motion before any action may be taken on each article.

## MOTION TO AMEND

A motion that proposes to modify or change the action presented under another motion, usually the main motion. The Town Meeting must act on the amendment first; depending on how the amendment is voted will determine whether the main motion will change to reflect the amendment. If the amendment fails, there will be no change to the main motion; however, another motion to amend can be made.

## MOTION TO CONSIDER OUT OF ORDER

A motion allowing an article to be taken out of its sequential order as printed in the Warrant, which requires a 4/5 vote of the meeting in accordance with the Town's By-laws.

## MOTION TO POSTPONE

A motion to defer action on an article to a definite time. In some instances, action on one article may be dependent or impacted by another later-occurring article. In such an instance, a motion could be made to postpone action on the current article until the later-occurring article has been voted.

## MOTION TO PASS OVER

A motion to defer action on an article indefinitely. No action would be taken under the article other than the vote to pass over. If the vote to pass over fails, then the article must be acted upon in some manner.

## MOTION TO RECESS REGULAR TOWN MEETING

A motion to temporarily suspend discussion and action during the Meeting for a brief period of time, usually prestated.

## MOTION TO ADJOURN TO A TIME CERTAIN

A motion made to continue the Town Meeting to another specified date, time and place, if necessary.

## MOTION TO ADOURN -- SINE DIE

A motion to officially close the Town Meeting. This motion can only be made after all articles have been acted upon, and essentially adjourns the Town Meeting without providing for a further date.

# COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS 

## TOWN OF NORTH READING

## SPRING ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

JUNE 10, 2024
7:00 P.M.
Middlesex, SS.
To either of the Constables of the Town of North Reading in the County of Middlesex, GREETINGS.
IN THE NAME OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet at 189 Park Street in said North Reading, on MONDAY, the TENTH DAY OF JUNE, 2024, at seven o'clock in the evening, then and there to act on the following articles:--

## Article 1 FY2024 Budget Amendment

To see if the Town will vote to amend the FY2024 Operating Budget voted under Article 19 of the June 12, 2023 Annual Town Meeting, including the funding of the first year of certain collective bargaining agreements, and appropriate by transfer from unexpended funds remaining in Warrant Articles of previous years, or appropriate by transfer from any available source of funds, or borrow a sum of money for such purposes; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board

## Description...

This is a routine article to provide supplemental funding for department budgets for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, including potentially funding the first year of certain collective bargaining agreements. A request for funds will be available for Town Meeting, if necessary.

## Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting.
Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting.

## Article 2 FY2024 Capital Budget Amendment

To see if the Town will vote to amend the FY 2024 Capital Budget voted under Article 25 of the June 12, 2023 Annual Town Meeting, and appropriate by transfer from unexpended funds remaining in Warrant Articles of previous years, or appropriate by transfer from any available source of funds, or borrow a sum of money for such purposes; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board

## Description...

This article would amend the FY2024 capital budget adopted at June Town Meeting. Proposed amendments, if any, will be provided at Town Meeting.

## Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting.
Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting.

## Article 3 Fund FY2024 Snow and Ice Deficit

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from any available source of funds, or appropriate and transfer from unexpended warrant articles of previous years a sum of money to fund a deficit in the FY2024 Snow and Ice Budget; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board

Description...
This article provides funds necessary for a deficit in the Snow and Ice Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

## Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommended.
Finance Committee: Recommended.

## Article 4 FY2024 Appropriate Funds to Capital Improvement Stabilization Fund

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from any available source of funds a sum of money to be added to the Capital Improvement Stabilization Fund established under Article 5 of the October 2007 Town Meeting; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board

## Description...

The Select Board proposes to transfer surplus funds to the Town's Capital Improvement Stabilization Fund. The use of this fund includes funding capital purchases in order to reduce the need for borrowing for certain projects, and to pay debt service. The current balance in the account is $\$ 1,749,541$. An estimated amount is to be added to the Fund from various sources under this article.

## Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommended.
Finance Committee: Recommended.

## Article 5 FY2024 Transfer Funds to Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from any available source of funds a sum of money to the Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund established under Article 19 of the June 3, 2013 Town Meeting; or what it will do in relation thereto.

## Sponsor: Select Board

## Description...

This article will transfer surplus funds, if any, to supplement a reserve account to pay for future health care costs for retirees. The current balance in this account is $\$ 3,866,939$.

## Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting.
Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting.

## Article 6 FY2024 Appropriate Funds to Stabilization Fund

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from any available source of funds a sum of money to be added to the Stabilization Fund; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board
Description...
The Select Board proposes to transfer surplus funds to the Town's Stabilization Fund. The Stabilization Fund may be used for any lawful purpose, however, it represents the Town's rainy day fund for unexpected emergencies. The current balance in the account is $\$ 4,500,839$.

## Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommended.
Finance Committee: Recommended.

## Article $7 \quad$ FY2024 Transfer Funds to Solid Waste Stabilization Fund

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the FY2024 Operating Budget voted under Article 19 of the June 12, 2023 Annual Town Meeting, or appropriate by transfer from any available source of funds a sum of money to be added to the Solid Waste Stabilization Fund established under Article 23 of the April 3, 2006 Town Meeting; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board
Description...
This article seeks to transfer surplus funds, if any, from funding sources including Trash Receipts to be used to offset future Solid Waste costs. The current balance in this account is \$180,453.

## Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting.
Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting.

## Article 8 FY2024 Transfer Funds to Water Stabilization Fund

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the FY2024 Operating Budget voted under Article 19 of the June 12, 2023 Annual Town Meeting, FY2024 Water Department retained earnings, or appropriate by transfer from any available source of funds a sum of money to be added to the Water Stabilization Fund; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board
Description...
The Water Stabilization Fund is used to fund water enterprise capital projects and other water enterprise related purposes. The present balance in the Fund is $\$ 2,608,208$. It is proposed an amount be transferred from Water Retained Earnings into the Fund.

Recommendations ...
Select Board: Recommended.
Finance Committee: Recommended.

## Article 9 FY2024 Appropriate Funds to Participating Funding Arrangement Fund

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the FY2024 Operating Budget voted under Article 19 of the June 12, 2023 Annual Town Meeting, or appropriate by transfer from any available source of funds a sum of money to be added to the Participating Funding Arrangement Fund established under Article 24 of the June 4, 2018 Town Meeting and re-named under Article 6 of the October 15, 2018 Town Meeting; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board
Description...
This Fund is a reserve account to pay for the Town's portion of future employee health insurance costs. The present balance in the account is $\$ 2,174,268$.

## Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting.
Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting.

## Article 10 FY2024 Transfer Funds to School District Reserve Fund for Unanticipated/Unbudgeted Costs for Special Education, Out-of-District Tuition, or Transportation

To see if the Town will vote appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money to the School District Reserve Fund established under Article 23 of the June 10, 2019 Town Meeting for unanticipated or unbudgeted costs associated with special education, out-of-district tuition or transportation; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: School Committee
Description...
This article supplements a reserve account to pay for certain unanticipated education costs. Approval to spend money from this fund requires a majority vote of the School Committee and Select Board. The current balance in this account is $\$ 358,509$.

Recommendations ...
Select Board: Recommended.
Finance Committee: Recommended.

## Article 11 FY2024 Appropriate Funds for Legal Expenses - 20 Elm Street

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from unexpended funds remaining in Warrant Articles of previous years or appropriate by transfer from any available source of funds a sum of money for legal, engineering, consulting, and/or other services associated with the 20 Elm Street Chapter 40B Comprehensive Permit Application, including any costs incidental or related thereto; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board Description...
This article would provide funding for legal and other expenses, if necessary, related to the 20 Elm Street Chapter 40B Comprehensive Permit Application.

## Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting.
Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting.

## Article 12 Dissolve 102/104 Lowell Road Regulatory Inspections Revolving Fund

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 66, $\S 66-1$ of the General Bylaws by deleting the "102/104 Lowell Road Regulatory Inspections Revolving Fund"; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board

## Description...

This article would delete the 102/104 Lowell Road Regulatory Inspections Revolving Fund from the Town bylaws and close the fund, as construction is concluding.

## Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommended.
Finance Committee: Recommended.

## Article 13 Prior Year Bills

To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation and appropriate, or appropriate by transfer from any available source of funds, a sum of money to pay prior year bills; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board

## Description...

This article provides for payment of prior fiscal year bills which were not submitted prior to the end of Fiscal Year 2023. The requested amount for prior year bills, if any, will be available at Town Meeting. A 4/5 vote is required for approval of this article.

## Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting.
Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting.

## Article 14 Select Town Officers

To choose all necessary Town officers not elected by ballot, and determine what instructions shall be given to them.

Sponsor: Select Board

Description...
This is a customary article required by law which provides for the selection of officers not otherwise specified within the Annual Town Election Ballot, the General By-laws or the Charter.

Recommendations ...
Select Board: Recommended.
Finance Committee: No action required.

## Article 15 Hear and Act on Reports of Town Officers and Committees

To hear and act upon the reports of Town Officers and Committees.
Sponsor: Select Board

Description...
This is a customary article which provides for Officers and Committees so instructed to report to Town Meeting their progress or recommendations.

Recommendations ...
Select Board: Recommended.
Finance Committee: No action required.

## Article 16 FY 2025 Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to fix the compensation of all elected officers, provide for a reserve fund, and allocate sums of money to defray charges and expenses of the Town, including or relating to, but not limited to:

- Town Boards,
- Town Departments,
- Town Committees,
- Debt and the interest thereon
- Wages and Salaries; and
- Employee Benefits
for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 to appropriate the funds required for the aforementioned purposes and/or to fund the first year of certain collective bargaining agreements; and to raise these funds by taxation as authorized by MGL Ch. 59, by transferring unexpended funds remaining in accounts established by Warrant Articles of previous Town Meetings or any other available source of funds, or by taxation as authorized through a referendum to be conducted pursuant to Ch. 59, sec $21 \mathrm{C}(\mathrm{m})$ of the Massachusetts General Laws; or what it will do in relation thereto.


## Sponsor: Select Board

## Description...

This article is the annual operating budget of Town government, including potentially funding the first year of certain collective bargaining agreements, as well as the School Department. It sets forth appropriations of funds to pay for all the normal costs of providing governmental services to the community for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

This year, two motions will be proposed. The first will be to fund Town government including the public schools to the extent allowed under the limits of state law (Proposition $21 / 2$ ) as indicated in the column entitled "Proposition $21 / 2$ Limit". The second motion will be to authorize appropriations above the limit of state law as indicated in the column entitled "Override Amount" contingent on a vote at a ballot election scheduled for June 18, 2024.

## Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommended.
Finance Committee: Recommended.

Above is a summary, by function, of the FY2025 Operating Budgets of all Town Departments. The detail for these budgets is on the following pages.

* An additional $\$ 800,000$ in override funding will be used to fund Line 101
THIS SPACE for NOTES


* Line 10 Fund $\$ 23,044$ from WATER REVENUE
Expenses include the administrative costs of General Government, Town Meeting etc.
URCES
SALARIES
EXPENSES
CAPITAL
This budget provides for the compensation of the Human Resources Director and the Benefits Coordinator

THIS SPACE for NOTES

The Accounting Department is staffed with a full-time Administrative Assistant and an Accounting Analyst.
This Department is responsible for maintaining the financial records of the Town and the approval of all invoices for payment.

| ING | 245,614 | 243,363 | 276,285 | 284,869 | 284,869 | - | 284,869 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 21 SALARIES | 189,182 | 187,834 | 197,948 | 205,235 | 205,235 | - | 205,235 |


| 189,182 | 187,834 | 197,948 | 205,235 | 205,235 | - | 205,235 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 56,432 | 55,529 | 78,337 | 79,634 | 79,634 | - | 79,634 |

The Assessing Department is staffed with a full-time Assessing Manager and 2 full-time clerical staff. In addition, there is a three member the Town and setting the Tax Rate. The Board also grants abatements and exemptions where warranted.

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* Line 33 Fund $\$ 279,621$ from WATER REVENUE
* Line 33 Fund $\$ 1,283$ from PARKS and RECREATION REVENUE
* Line 33 Fund $\$ 300,000$ from CELL TOWER REVENU
This Line Item funds the various pension and employee benefits paid on behalf of current and retired employees
THIS SPACE for NOTES


## FY2025




$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { SALARIES } \\
& \text { EXPENSES } \\
& \text { CAPITAL } \\
& \text { Operations } \\
& \text {...Salaries } \\
& \text {...Expenses } \\
& \text {...Capital }
\end{aligned}
$$

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The Police Department consists of thirty-two (32) full-time sworn personnel, one (1) non-sworn Administrative Assistant, one (1) non-sworn Mental Health/Substance Abuse Clinician and one (1) non-sworn Substance Abuse Grant Director. The Department is administered by the Chief of Police and three (3) Lieutenants. The Patrol force is staffed by six (6) Community Services Division is staffed by one sergeant. The Department performs several major functions including but not limited to: Law Enforcement, Community Policing, Crime Prevention, Crime Investigation, responding to calls for service, housing prisoners, and Administrative Functions. In addition, the Department is the enforcement branch for Town Government and works with various Town Agencies in investigating and prosecuting cases on their behalf.

THIS SPACE for NOTES
-






## FY2025

|  | FY23 <br> Budget | FY23 <br> Expended | FY24 <br> Budget | DEPT. REQUEST | PROPOSITION <br> 2 $1 / 2$ LIMIT | OVERRIDE <br> AMOUNT |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Fincom Recommend |  |  |  |  |  |  |



Elections
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vital statistics of the Town, including births, marriages, deaths, and records of all staff. This Office is responsible for maintaining all
minutes of Town 位

 The Elections program is responsible for conducting all elections and Town Meetings. This program is also responsible for maintaining lists
of registered voters within the Town.

The Youth Services Department is staffed by a full-time Youth Services Director.
$\begin{array}{ccccccc}\text { June 10, } 2024 & & & & & \\ & & & \text { FY2025 } & & \\ \text { FY23 } & \text { FY23 } & \text { FY24 } & & & \text { PROPOSITION } & \text { OVERRIDE }\end{array} \begin{gathered}\text { Select Board \& } \\ \text { Budget }\end{gathered}$

| CONSERVATION COMM |  | 48,357 | 38,498 | 45,091 | 74,308 | 74,308 | - | 74,308 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 73 | SALARIES | 27,032 | 21,238 | 23,000 | 66,197 | 66,197 |  | 66,197 |
| 74 | EXPENSES | 21,325 | 17,260 | 22,091 | 8,111 | 8,111 |  | 8,111 |
| 75 | CAPITAL | - |  |  | - | - |  | - |
|  | The Conserv activities whic whether an a The budget | of 5 appo vities are tion can b support and | bers and ated by th and sets e Conser | . The Co <br> ConCom <br> under whi <br> nt retained | jurisdictio hearings occur. ctual basis |  |  |  |
| PLANNING COMMISSION |  | 221,423 | 197,813 | 217,364 | 211,269 | 211,269 |  | 211,269 |
| 76 | SALARIES | 169,853 | 169,853 | 170,794 | 173,699 | 173,699 |  | 173,699 |
| 77 | EXPENSES | 46,570 | 22,960 | 46,570 | 37,570 | 37,570 |  | 37,570 |
| 78 | CAPITAL | 5,000 | 5,000 |  |  |  |  |  |
| The Community Planning Commission (CPC) consists of 5 elected members. The CPC has jurisdiction of all planning activities within the Town. It approves all sub-divisions. The Commission is supported by a full-time Town Planner and a full-time secretary. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |



\section*{} $\begin{array}{lcccccc}\text { FY23 } & \text { FY23 } & \text { FY24 } & & & & \text { PROPOSITION } \\ \text { Budget } & \text { Expended } & \text { Budget } & \text { DEPT. REQUEST } & \text { OVERRIDE } & \begin{array}{c}\text { Select Board \& } \\ 21 / 2 \text { LIMIT }\end{array} & \text { AMOUNT }\end{array} \begin{array}{llll}\text { Fincom Recommend }\end{array}$ | FUNCTIONSUMMARY |
| :--- | :--- |
| EDUCATION |


June 10, 2024

|  |  | FY2025 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { FY23 } \\ & \text { Budget } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { FY23 } \\ \text { Expended } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { FY24 } \\ & \text { Budget } \end{aligned}$ | DEPT. REQUEST | PROPOSITION $21 / 2$ LIMIT | OVERRIDE AMOUNT | Select Board \& Fincom Recommend |
| FUNCTION SUMMARY |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DEB T SERVICE |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| School | Athletic Field Bathroom Facilities | 20,950 | 20,950 | 20,200 | 19,450 | 19,450 | - | 19,450 |
|  | Batch Entrance 6/17 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | , | , |  | - |
|  | Batchelder Plans | 10,000 |  |  | - |  |  |  |
|  | Batchelder Renovations | 576,300 | 576,300 | 550,000 | 239,700 | 239,700 |  | 239,700 |
|  | Device Initiative 06/15 | 10,250 | 10,250 | - | - |  |  |  |
|  | Elementary School Rooftop Units 06/22 |  |  | $\bigcirc$ | 14,012 | 14,012 |  | 14,012 |
|  | High/Middle Construction | 4,847,387 | 4,707,750 | 4,858,000 | 4,897,486 | 4,897,486 |  | 4,897,486 |
|  | Hood Boiler 06/23 |  |  |  | 15,940 | 15,940 |  | 15,940 |
|  | Hood School Renovation | 255,480 | 255,480 | 245,160 | - | - |  | - |
|  | Little School HVAC 06/22 |  |  |  | 13,788 | 13,788 |  | 13,788 |
|  | Little School Paving 06/21 | 14,605 | 14,605 | 14,250 | 13,750 | 13,750 | - | 13,750 |
|  | Little School Roof 10/15 | 69,525 | 69,525 | 67,275 | 65,025 | 65,025 |  | 65,025 |
|  | Little School Soffit 06/21 | 8,005 | 8,005 | 7,850 | 7,600 | 7,600 |  | 7,600 |
|  | Middle Boiler/Little Soffit | 11,000 | 11,000 | 10,600 | 10,200 | 10,200 |  | 10,200 |
|  | School Asbestos Abatement 06/13 | 5,225 | 5,225 | 5,062 | . | . |  | . |
|  | School Roof Repairs 10/09 | 10,450 | 10,450 | 10,150 | - |  |  |  |
| Municipal | Building on the Common Improve. 10/09 | 20,900 | 20,900 | 20,300 | - | - |  | - |
|  | Connection Design | 36,400 | - | - | - | - |  | - |
|  | Damon Tavern Exterior 06/21 | 16,786 | 16,786 | 16,500 | 16,000 | 16,000 |  | 16,000 |
|  | DPW Building Roof $6 / 18$ | 21,500 | 21,500 | 20,750 | 15,000 | 15,000 |  | 15,000 |
|  | DPW Dump Truck 06/22 | - | - | - | 23,998 | 23,998 |  | 23,998 |
|  | DPW Dump Truck $106 / 19$ | 14,000 | 14,000 | 13,500 | 13,000 | 13,000 |  | 13,000 |
|  | DPW Dump Truck $206 / 19$ | 8,750 | 33,750 | 32,500 | 31,250 | 31,250 |  | 31,250 |
|  | DPW Fabric Storage Replace 06/19 | 28,000 | 13,000 | 12,500 | 12,000 | 12,000 |  | 12,000 |
|  | DPW Facilities Asbestos Abate 06/19 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 19,250 | 18,500 | 18,500 |  | 18,500 |
|  | DPW Garage Phase I 06/19 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 6,750 | 6,500 | 6,500 |  | 6,500 |
|  | DPW Loader 06/18 | 20,350 | 20,350 | 19,600 | 18,850 | 18,850 |  | 18,850 |
|  | Drain System Repairs 6/14 | 5,350 | 5,350 | 5,188 | 5,063 | 5,063 | - | 5,063 |
|  | Drain System Repairs 6/15 | 5,375 | 5,375 | 5,125 | - |  |  | - |
|  | Eisenhaure Park | 152,781 | 152,781 | 147,981 | 143,031 | 143,031 |  | 143,031 |
|  | Fire Department Communications 6/17 | 73,200 | 73,200 | 70,200 | 67,200 | 67,200 | - | 67,200 |
|  | Fire Pumper - E3 | 47,100 | 47,100 | 45,600 | 44,100 | 44,100 | - | 44,100 |
|  | Fire Pumper 10/05 | 10,206 | 10,206 | - | - | - |  | - |
|  | Fire Station AC 6/14 | 5,100 | 5,100 | 5,75 |  |  |  |  |
|  | Fire Station Improvements 06/15 | 6,025 | 6,025 | 5,775 | 5,525 | 5,525 |  | 5,525 |
|  | Fire Station Improvements 06/16 | 15,288 | 15,288 | 14,788 | 14,288 | 14,288 |  | 14,288 |
|  | Flint Library Repairs 04/09 | 5,075 | 5,075 | - | 5, | 54, |  | - |
|  | Haverhil/Chestrut Intersection 06/22 | - | - | - | 54,043 | 54,043 |  | 54,043 |
|  | Intersection Study 06/21 | - | - | - | 34,409 | 34,409 |  | 34,409 |
|  | Library Clapboard Repairs 06/19 | 15,900 | 15,900 | 15,400 | 14,900 | 14,900 |  | 14,900 |
|  | Library Esterior 06/22 |  |  |  | 8,150 | 8,150 |  | 8,150 |
|  | Library Exterior 10/20 | 14,450 | 14,450 | 13,950 | 13,450 | 13,450 |  | 13,450 |
|  | Library Fire Alarm 06/21 | - | . | - | 7,073 | 7,073 | - | 7,073 |
|  | Library HVAC 06/23 | - |  | - | 33,048 | 33,048 |  | 33,048 |
|  | Library Security 06/21 | - | - | - | 12,397 | 12,397 | - | 12,397 |
|  | Park St. Bridge | 6,156 | 6,156 | 5,956 | 5,750 | 5,750 | - | 5,750 |
|  | Police Station Heater 06/22 | - |  | $\stackrel{-}{-}$ | 12,666 | 12,666 | - | 12,666 |
|  | Police Station Renovations | 471,884 | 471,884 | 469,628 | 403,025 | 403,025 | - | 403,025 |
|  | Police Station Security 06/21 | - | - | - | 12,397 | 12,397 | - | 12,397 |
|  | Police Station Ventilation 06/21 | - | - 7 | - | 7,432 | 7,432 | - | 7,432 |
|  | Police Technology/Remodel 04/07 | 29,722 | 29,722 | 28,690 | 27,650 | 27,650 | - | 27,650 |
|  | Replace Bobcat 06/21 | 14,363 | 14,363 | 14,000 | 13,500 | 13,500 | - | 13,500 |
|  | Replace Culverts | 5,500 | 5,500 | 5,300 | 5,100 | 5,100 | - | 5,100 |
|  | Replace Dump Truck 40\&41 6/15 Replace F450 Pickup 06/21 | 19,275 14,605 | 19,275 14,605 | 18,525 14,250 | 17,775 13,750 | 17,775 13,750 | - | 17,775 13,750 |
|  | Roadway Restoration 06/19 | 86,400 | 86,400 | 83,400 | 80,400 | 80,400 | - | 80,400 |
|  | Roadway Restoration 06/21 |  | - | . | 59,860 | 59,860 | - | 59,860 |



* Line 102 Fund $\$ 769,723$ from WATER REVENUE
Line 105 Fund $\$ 120,000$ from WATER INFRASTRUCTURE STABILIZATION
The Water Department employs 1 superintendent, 1 foreman, 1 equipment operator and 2 Maintenance Crafsman Positions.
Administrative support is provided by the Executive Admininstrative Assistant and the Admin Assisstant under the DPW Administrative Division.


| GENERAL GOVERNMENT | 33,482,864 | 30,729,691 | 34,809,557 | 37,061,422 | 35,657,822 | 595,109 | 36,252,931 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| EDUCATION | 36,481,702 | 36,461,415 | 38,262,928 | 39,871,531 | 39,871,531 | 1,436,318 | 41,307,849 |
| DEBT SERVICE | 7,734,826 | 7,571,511 | 7,584,756 | 7,260,470 | 7,260,470 | - | 7,260,470 |
| ENTERPRISES | 7,024,337 | 6,814,300 | 7,287,423 | 7,936,909 | 7,838,109 | 53,800 | 7,891,909 |
| TOTAL BUDGET | 84,723,729 | 81,576,917 | 87,944,664 | 92,130,332 | 90,627,932 | 2,085,227 | 92,713,159 |

## Article 17 Increase Senior Tax Rebate

To see if the Town will vote to increase the maximum property tax exemption for qualifying participants in the Senior Tax Work-Off program in accordance with G.L. c.59, §5K, as originally accepted and created under Article 5 of the April 3, 2000 Annual Town Meeting, from one thousand five hundred dollars $(\$ 1,500.00)$ to two thousand dollars $(\$ 2,000.00)$; or what it will do in relation thereto.

## Sponsor: Select Board

Description...
This article seeks to increase the maximum amount of the property tax exemption for participants in the Senior Tax Work-Off program from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

## Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommended.
Finance Committee: Recommended.

## Article 18 Home-Rule Petition: Establish Means-Tested Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for special legislation establishing a means-tested Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption to provide property tax relief for certain eligible property owners, as set forth below; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court which are within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition, and to authorize the Select Board to approve such amendments:

## AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF NORTH READING TO ESTABLISH A MEANS TESTED SENIOR CITIZEN PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. There shall be an exemption from the property tax for each qualifying parcel of real property classified as class one, residential in the town of North Reading in an amount to be set annually by the select board as provided in section 3. The exemption shall be applied only to the domicile of the taxpayer; provided, however, that for the purposes of this act, "parcel" shall mean a unit of real property as defined by the board of assessors under the deed for the property and shall include a condominium unit. The exemption provided for in this act shall be in addition to any and all other exemptions allowed by the General Laws.

SECTION 2. The board of assessors in the town of North Reading may deny an application if they find the applicant has excessive assets that place the applicant outside of the intended recipients of the exemption under this act. Real property shall qualify for the exemption under section 1 if:
(i) the qualifying real property is owned and occupied by a person whose prior year's income would make the person eligible for the circuit breaker income tax credit under subsection (k) of section 6 of chapter 62 of the General Laws;
(ii) the qualifying real property is owned: (A) by a single applicant not less than 65 years of
age at the close of the previous year; or (B) jointly by persons either of whom is not less than 65 years of age at the close of the previous year and the other joint applicant is not less than 60 years of age;
(iii) the qualifying real property is owned and occupied by the applicant or joint applicants as their domicile;
(iv) the applicant or at least 1 of the joint applicants has been domiciled and owned a home in the town for not less than 10 consecutive years before filing an application for the exemption;
(v) the maximum assessed value of the qualifying real property is no greater than the prior year's maximum assessed value for qualification for the circuit breaker income tax credit under said subsection (k) of said section 6 of said chapter 62 as adjusted annually by the department of revenue; and
(vi) the board of assessors has approved the application.

SECTION 3. The select board of the town of North Reading shall annually set the exemption amount under section 1 at up to 50 per cent of the amount of the circuit breaker income tax credit under subsection (k) of section 6 of chapter 62 of the General Laws for which the applicant qualified in the previous year, set annually by the board of assessors. The total amount exempted by this act shall be allocated proportionally within the tax levy on all residential taxpayers.

SECTION 4. A person who seeks to qualify for the exemption under section 1 shall, before the deadline established by the board of assessors of the town of North Reading, file an application, on a form to be adopted by the board, with supporting documentation relative to the applicant's income and assets as described in the application. The application shall be filed each year for which the applicant seeks the exemption.

SECTION 5. No exemption shall be granted under this act until the department of revenue certifies a residential tax rate for the applicable tax year where the total exemption amount is raised by a burden shift within the residential tax levy.

SECTION 6. This act shall expire 3 years after implementation of the exemption under this act.
or what it will do in relation thereto.
Sponsor: Taxation Aid Committee

## Description...

This article would authorize the Town to petition the Legislature for permission to establish a property tax relief program for qualifying senior citizens. The amount by which taxes for qualifying seniors is reduced would be reallocated among all residential property taxpayers.

## Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting.
Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting.

## Article 19 FY2025 One-Time Fire Department Recruit and Paramedic Training

To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds, a sum of money for fire recruit and paramedic training; or what it will do in relation thereto.

## Sponsor: Select Board

Description...
This article would provide additional funding for fire recruit and paramedic training, including but not limited to training, outfitting, coverage, tuition and incentives, for firefighters to be hired..

## Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommended.
Finance Committee: Recommended.

## Article 20 Fund Retirement Obligations

To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of funding FY 2025 retirement obligations; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board
Description...
This article will provide funding for obligations owed to municipal and school employees who are retiring during FY2025.

Recommendations ...
Select Board: Recommended.
Finance Committee: Recommended.

## Article 21 FY2025 Appropriate Funds to Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds, a sum of money to the Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund established under Article 19 of the June 3, 2013 Town Meeting; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board
Description...
This article supplements a reserve account to pay for future health care costs for retirees. The current balance in this account is $\$ 3,866,939$.

## Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommended.
Finance Committee: Recommended.

## Article 22 Authorize Treasurer to Enter into Compensating Balance Agreements

To see if the Town will vote to authorize its Treasurer/Collector to enter into a compensating balance agreement or agreements for FY2025 pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53F; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board

## Description...

This is a customary article which allows the Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements with banks through which a portion of the interest earnings of deposits are retained by the bank in exchange for services.

## Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommended.
Finance Committee: Recommended.

## Article 23 Rescind Authorization to Borrow

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the authorized, but unissued balances of various borrowing authorizations approved by the Town from time to time, which amounts are no longer needed to pay costs of completing the projects for which they were originally approved, or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board
Description...
This is a routine article seeking to rescind bond authorizations that are no longer needed because the respective projects are completed or have been abandoned. Specific authorizations to be rescinded, if any, will be available at Town Meeting.

## Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting.
Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting.

## Article 24 FY 2025 Capital Expenditures

To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation and appropriate, appropriate and transfer from unexpended funds remaining in Warrant Articles of previous years, or appropriate by transfer from any available source of funds or borrow pursuant to any applicable enabling authority, a sum of money for the purchase of items of a capital nature including, but not limited to, the possible projects and funding sources set forth below, and further to authorize the Town Administrator to sell or tradein items rendered surplus by such purchases; or what it will do in relation thereto.

## Sponsor: Select Board

## Description...

This article, required by the Town Charter, annually funds the purchase and replacement of capital equipment for various Town Departments including the School Department as recommended by the Capital Improvement Planning Committee.

## Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommended.
Finance Committee: Recommended.
(continued on next page)

| Project | Department |  | Cost |  | Source Of Funds |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Park Street Bridge Bidding/Construction | DPW-Engineering | \$ | 630,000 |  | Bond |
| Roadway Rehabilitation \& Reconstruction | DPW-Engineering | \$ | 600,000 |  | Bond |
| Bridge \& Culvert Rehabiliation / Replacements | DPW-Engineering | \$ | 250,000 |  | Bond |
| Signalization of Park St at Central St | DPW-Engineering | \$ | 350,000 |  | Bond |
| Third Mtg Hourse Exterior Painting and Front Wood Cladding Replacement | DPW-Facilities | \$ | 175,000 |  | Bond |
| Replace 2005 Elgin Sweeper \#00 | DPW-Highway | \$ | 310,000 |  | Cell Tower Revenue |
| Replace Ambulance | Fire Department | \$ | 571,000 |  | Ambulance Reserve |
| Computer/Equipment Replacement | Information Technologies | \$ | 45,000 |  | Free Cash |
| Replace Portable Radio Units | Police Department | \$ | 205,000 |  | Free Cash |
| 2022 Explorer (replace Admin Vehicle car\#5) | Police Department | \$ | 64,682 |  | Free Cash |
| Hood School Roof Replacement | School Department | \$ | 200,000 |  | Bond |
| Technology Instructional Equipment-MS/HS | School Department | \$ | 200,000 |  | Free Cash |
| Elementary Systems Upgrade-Phase II Burglar Alarm System Upgrade | School Department | \$ | 60,000 |  | Free Cash |
| Modular Feasibility Study | School Department | \$ | 36,000 |  | Free Cash |
| Classroom Window Replacement-Hood/Little | School Department | \$ | 75,000 | 2 | \$70,000 Previous Bond Proceeds <br> \$5,000 Free Cash |
| Ford F-450 Utility Truck Replacement | School Department | \$ | 95,000 |  | Free Cash |
| Voting Tabulators (8) | Town Clerk | \$ | 49,800 |  | Free Cash |
| Ipswich River Park/ Playground Equipment | Parks and Recreation | \$ | 50,000 |  | Parks and Recreation Retained Earnings |
| Hillview Function Hall and Adjoining-Total Roof Replacement | Hillview Enterprise | \$ | 2,000,000 | 3 | \$51,853 Previous Bond Proceeds <br> \$1,948,147 bond |
| Hillview Course Improvement Phase II | Hillview Enterprise | \$ | 500,000 |  | Hillview Retained Earnings |
| Water Distribution System Upgrades | Water Enterprise | \$ | 200,000 | 4 | \$169,004 Previous Bond proceeds <br> \$30,996 Water Infrastructure Stabilization |

Note 1 - Supplements ARPA appropriation of \$1,400,000
Note 2 - Total Project \$75,000
Transfer \$70,000 from unspent bond proceeds from June 2019 Town Meeting, Article 16 - Replace DPW Fabric Storage
Transfer \$5,000 from Free Cash
Note 3 - Total project \$2,000,000
Bond \$1,948,147
Transfer \$51,853 from unspent bond proceeds from October 2012 Town Meeting, Article 14 - Hillview 7th Fairway Improvements and Greens Mower
Note 4 - Total project \$200,000
Transfer \$30,996 from Water Infrastructure Stabilization
Transfer \$114,004 from unspent bond proceeds from April 2008 Town Meeting, Article 21 - Central Station Upgrade
Transfer $\$ 55,000$ from unspent bond proceeds from June 2014 Town Meeting, Article 14 - West Village Well

## Article 25 FY2025 Fund Town Building Repairs

To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation and appropriate, or appropriate by transfer from unexpended funds remaining in Warrant Articles of previous years, or appropriate by transfer from any available source of funds, or borrow a sum of money for the repair of Town buildings, including any costs incidental or related thereto; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board

## Description...

This article would fund improvements and/or repairs to various municipal buildings. The amount to be requested will be provided at Town Meeting.

```
Recommendations ...
    Select Board: Recommended.
    Finance Committee: Recommended.
```


## Article 26 FY2025 Fund Repairs to Rev. Daniel Putnam House

To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation and appropriate, or appropriate by transfer from unexpended funds remaining in Warrant Articles of previous years, or appropriate by transfer from any available source of funds, or borrow a sum of money to make repairs to the Rev. Daniel Putnam House, including any costs incidental or related thereto; or what it will do in relation thereto.

## Sponsor: Select Board

## Description...

This article would fund necessary repairs at the Town-owned Rev. Daniel Putnam House. Repairs are anticipated to be overseen by the North Reading Historical and Antiquarian Society.

## Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommended.
Finance Committee: Recommended.

## Article 27 FY2025 Authorize Chapter 90 Highway Construction

To see if the Town will accept and expend such sum or sums of money that may be available under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 90, Section 34, Clause 2(a) or other state roadway reimbursement programs and to authorize the Select Board to enter into a contract with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division for the construction, reconstruction or maintenance of roadways in Town; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Department of Public Works

## Description...

This article authorizes the use of Chapter 90 State Highway Aid for road and highway improvements. As of May 1, 2022, the Town anticipated receiving \$515,025.44 in Fiscal Year 2025 Chapter 90 funding for local road projects.

Recommendations ...
Select Board: Recommended.
Finance Committee: Recommended.

## Article 28 Authorize Director of Public Works to Accept Easements

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Director of Public Works to accept, on behalf of the Town, easements in perpetuity from owners of record in cases where such easements are deemed necessary or desirable for the installation and maintenance of drainage and water mains, or for other construction, which easements are in the interests of public health, welfare, safety, or convenience to the motoring public; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board
Description...
This article is presented annually to allow the Director of Public Works to accept easements for the construction and maintenance of water mains, drainage and other purposes.

## Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommended.
Finance Committee: No action required.

## Article 29 Lease of Town-Owned Real Property at 166 Chestnut Street

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to lease for a term not to exceed 20 years space on municipal owned real property and structures, respectively, for the attachment of personal wireless services antennas and related equipment upon such terms and conditions as such Board deems advisable in its discretion after consideration at a duly noticed public hearing; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board

## Description...

This article would authorize the Select Board to continue leasing Town-owned property for the personal wireless services antennas, i.e. for cellular telephones, after they conduct a public hearing.

Recommendations ...
Select Board: Recommended.
Finance Committee: Recommended.
(continued on next page)


## Article 30 Amend Code of the Town of North Reading - Zoning Bylaws Establishment of Lowell Road Multi-Family Zoning Overlay District

To see if the Town will vote to amend the North Reading Zoning Bylaw as follows:

1. Insert a new Article $\qquad$ , Lowell Road Multi-Family Overlay District, as follows:
§ 200- $\qquad$ Purpose.

The purpose of the Lowell Road Multi-Family Overlay District is to provide opportunities for the development of new multi-family housing by right, in the interest of providing a variety of needed housing types; and to fully comply with the Town's obligations under Section 3A of MGL c. 40A.
§ 200- $\qquad$ Applicability.

This bylaw applies to any property to be placed within the Lowell Road Multi-Family Overlay District, which shall include the following parcels that are listed below and are shown on the Lowell Road Multi-Family Overlay District Map on file in the Community Planning Department. The Lowell Road Multi-Family Overlay District is herein established as an overlay district.

| Area <br> (acres) | Map and Parcel | Street Number | Street Name |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 34.21 | Map 7 Parcel 2 | 104 | Lowell Road |
| 47.87 | Map 14 Parcel 9 | 100 | Lowell Road |

§ 200-__. Effect of overlay district.
The Lowell Road Multi-Family Overlay District regulations of this article apply in addition to the underlying zoning district regulations. In case of conflict between the regulations of this article and other regulations in this bylaw, the regulations of this article shall control, whether more or less restrictive. Where no Lowell Road Multi-Family Overlay District regulation is stated in this article, the regulations of the underlying zoning district and all other applicable provisions of this bylaw shall apply.

## § 200-__. Use regulations.

The following use shall be permitted as of right in the Lowell Road Multi-Family Overlay District: "Multi-family housing'", a building with 3 or more residential dwelling units or 2 or more buildings on the same lot with more than 1 residential dwelling unit in each building.
§ 200-__. Dimensional and density regulations.
A. The dimensional and density regulations of the underlying zoning district are to be adhered to within the Lowell Road Multi-Family Overlay District, with the exception that the maximum number of stories allowed is four and one-half ( $4 \frac{1}{2}$ ).
B. Multiple buildings are allowed on one lot. The minimum separation between buildings shall be two times the required side yard setback.

## § 200-__. Parking requirements.

A. The minimum required off-street parking shall be two spaces per dwelling unit.
B. The required parking spaces may be located in an accessory garage, in a dedicated parking area on the lot, or stacked within the driveway serving the development. When the parking spaces are located outside, the area used for parking shall be graded and drained so as to prevent surface water accumulation within the parking area and to prevent surface water runoff to an adjoining property or the public way.
C. Dimensions of outdoor parking spaces shall be a minimum of 10 feet by 20 feet. Dimensions of indoor parking garage spaces shall be a minimum of 9 feet by 18 feet.
D. No off-street parking space shall be located within the minimum front yard setback.
$E$. There shall be a landscaped buffer of not less than four feet between any driveway and the nearest side lot line, and no paved surface areas and no off-street parking shall be permitted within the buffer zone.

## § 200-__. Affordability requirements.

One unit for each 10 residential units in all new development projects that include 10 or more residential units created through new construction or addition to existing buildings must be affordable units. Developers of such projects are required to provide affordable units on-site. Affordable units must be affordable to a low- or moderate-income household, i.e., a household with income at or below 80\% of area median income (AMI), adjusted for household size, for the metropolitan area that includes the Town of North Reading, as determined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Affordable units shall meet the requirements of the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) Local Initiative Program (LIP) for inclusion on the Chapter 40B Subsidized Housing Inventory.

## § 200-__. Severability.

In the event that one or more of the provisions of this article are determined to be illegal or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, then the illegality or unenforceability of any such provision shall not affect the validity of any other provision of this article which remains in full force and effect.
2. Amend the Town of North Reading Zoning Map to add a new Lowell Road Multi-Family Zoning Overlay District consisting of the following parcels:

| Area | Map and Parcel | Street Number | Street Name |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 34.21 acres | Map 7 Parcel 2 | 104 | Lowell Road |
| 47.87 acres | Map 14 Parcel 9 | 100 | Lowell Road |

or what it will do in relation thereto.
Sponsor: Community Planning Commission

## Description...

The article establishes a new overlay district that complies with the provisions of Section 3A of MGL c. 40A. The district, like the existing overlay district affecting these properties, allows multifamily housing by right, and establishes regulations for that overlay district, including parking. The overlay district affects two parcels currently located within the Industrial Office zoning district. The provisions of the underlying zoning district, and other zoning overlay districts affecting the properties, remain intact.

## Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommended.
Finance Committee: Recommended.


## Article 31 Amend Code of the Town of North Reading - Zoning By-Laws - Changes to Site Plan Review, Article XVII

To see if the Town will vote to amend the North Reading Zoning Bylaw, Article XVII, Site Plan Review, § 200-94, by deleting Paragraph B in its entirety and replacing it with the following:
B. This section of the Zoning Bylaw is adopted pursuant to Chapter 40A, Section 9. All site plan review applications submitted under the provisions of this section shall be reviewed by the Community Planning Commission using special permit procedures as set forth herein. Allowed uses are as stated in the Zoning Bylaw and are not discretionary in Site Plan Review.
or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Community Planning Commission
Description...
This article clarifies the Town's site plan review procedures, confirming that site plan review is treated procedurally like a special permit but is not an actual special permit and no discretion for use is given to the special permit granting authority.

## Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommended.
Finance Committee: Recommended.

## Article 32 Amend Code of the Town of North Reading - Zoning By-Laws - <br> Section 200-30 Zoning Map

To see if the Town will vote to amend subsection A. of §200-30 the Code of the Town of North Reading Zoning By-Laws to replace the phrase "(The current revision date is June 5, 2021)" with "(The current revision date is June 10, 2024)", such amendment to be made only upon passage by Town Meeting and approval by the Attorney General's Office of Article 30 and 31; or what it will do in relation thereto:

Sponsor: Community Planning Commission
Description...
The amendment updates the Zoning Map with a current revision date.

## Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommended.
Finance Committee: Recommended.

## Article 33 Dissolve Veterans Memorial Committee

To see if the Town will vote to dissolve the Veterans Memorial Committee established under Article 6 of the October 3, 1988 Town Meeting; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Veterans Events Committee / Veterans Memorial Committee

## Description...

This article would dissolve the Veterans Memorial Committee. It is anticipated that the Select Board will incorporate the duties of this committee with those of an existing veterans committee established by the Select Board.

Recommendations ...
Select Board: Recommended.
Finance Committee: Recommended.

## Article 34 Fire Station Reconstruction Project Bidding Phase Funding

To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation and appropriate, or appropriate by transfer from unexpended funds remaining in Warrant Articles of previous years, or appropriate by transfer from any available funds, or borrow a sum of money for the bidding phase of the Fire Station Reconstruction Project; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Facilities Master Plan Committee and Fire Station Building Committee
Description...
This article would fund expenses associated with bidding for the Fire Station reconstruction project. Funding this article would allow the project to be bid out and the results reported to and considered at a future Town Meeting.

## Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommended.
Finance Committee: Recommended.

And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting up attested copies, fourteen days at least before the time of holding said meeting, in accordance with the Code of the Town of North Reading.

HEREOF FAIL NOT, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting, as aforesaid.

As voted by the Select Board this $\mathbf{6}^{\text {th }}$ day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four and

Given under our hands on the following date(s) as indicated below:

## SELECT BOARD

Liane R. Gonzalez, Chair
Vincenzo Stuto, Vice Chair Richard Wallner, Clerk
Stephen J. O'Leary
Kathryn M. Manupelli

A True Copy:
Attest: Douglas Labb, Constable

## Glossary of Terms Commonly Used in Municipal Finance

Appropriation: An authorization granted by a legislative body to make expenditures and to incur obligations for specific purposes. An appropriation is usually limited in amount and the time when it can be expended. Any amount that is appropriated may be encumbered. A warrant article appropriation is carried forward from year to year until spent for the designated purpose or transferred by town meeting vote to another account.

Assessed Valuation: The value placed upon a particular property by the local Board of Assessors for the purpose of apportioning the town's tax levy among individual property owners equitably and in accordance with the legal requirement that property be assessed at "full and fair cash value", certified periodically by the Commonwealth's Commissioner of Revenue (no less frequently than once every three years).

Available Funds: Balances in the various fund types that represent non-recurring revenue sources. As a matter of sound practice, they are frequently appropriated to meet unforeseen expenses, for capital expenditures or other onetime costs. Examples of available funds include free cash, stabilization funds and overlay surplus.

Audit: Work done by accountants in examining financial reports, reviewing compliance with applicable laws and regulations, reviewing effectiveness in achieving program results. A basic audit examines only the financial reports and legal compliance. An outside Certified Public Accountant (CPA) audit is directed primarily toward the expression of an opinion as to the fairness of the financial statements and submission of a management letter. An auditor must be independent of the executive branch of government. A state auditor, private CPA or public accountant, or elected auditor meets this test.

Bond: A means to raise money through the issuance of debt. A bond issuer/borrower promises in writing to repay a specified sum of money, alternately referred to as face value, par value or bond principal, to the buyer of the bond on a specified future date (maturity date), together with periodic interest at a specified rate.

Bond Authorization: The action of town meeting authorizing the executive branch to raise money through the sale of bonds in a specific amount and for a specific purpose. Once authorized, issuance is by the treasurer upon the signature of the selectmen.

Bond Issue: Generally, the sale of a certain number of bonds at one time by a governmental unit.
Bond Rating (Municipal): A credit rating assigned to a municipality to help investors assess the future ability, legal obligation, and willingness of the municipality (bond issuer) to make timely debt service payments. Stated otherwise, a rating helps prospective investors determine the level of risk associated with a given fixed-income investment. Rating agencies, such as Moody's and Standard and Poors, use rating systems, which designate a letter or a combination of letters and numerals where AAA is the highest rating and C 1 is a very low rating.

Budget: A plan of financial operation embodying an estimate of proposed expenditures for a given period and the proposed means of financing them. A budget may be preliminary (the financial plan presented to the town meeting) or final (the plan approved by that body).

Capital Budget: A plan of proposed capital outlays and the means of financing them for the current fiscal period. It is usually a part of the current budget.

Cherry Sheet: An annual statement received from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue detailing estimated receipts for the next fiscal year for the various state aid accounts and estimated state and county government charges payable by the Town in setting the tax rate. The actual receipts and charges may vary from the estimates.

Collective Bargaining: The process of negotiating workers' wages, hours, benefits, working conditions, etc., between an employer and some or all of its employees, who are represented by a recognized labor union. Regarding wages, hours and working conditions.

Debt Exclusion: A vote to exclude from the levy limit the costs of debt service for capital projects. This exclusion remains in effect for the life of the debt only.

Debt Service: The repayment cost, usually stated in annual terms and based on an amortization schedule, of the principal and interest on any particular bond issue.

Enterprise Fund: A standalone fund with its own assets, liabilities, fund balance, revenues and expenses in which a municipal service is operated as a business unit. Costs of the service are primarily recovered from user charges, and may be supplemented by general revenues.

Excess Levy Capacity: The difference between the levy limit and the amount of real and personal property taxes actually levied in a given year.

Exemptions: A discharge, established by statute, from the obligation to pay all or a portion of a property tax. The exemption is available to particular categories of property or persons upon the timely submission and approval of an application to the assessors. Properties exempt from taxation include hospitals, schools, houses of worship, and cultural institutions. Persons who may qualify for exemptions include disabled veterans, blind individuals, surviving spouses, and seniors.

Expenditure: The spending of money by the town and schools for the programs or projects within the approved budget.

FTE: A full-time equivalent employee based on a 40-hour work week. May be one or more employees, but the total weekly hours equal 40.

Fiscal Year ("FY"): A 12-month period, beginning July 1 and ending June 30, to which the annual budget applies and ta the end of which a governmental unit determines its financial position and the results of its operations. The designation of the fiscal year is that of the calendar year in which its ends; for example, FY17 or FY 2017 is the fiscal year which begins July 1, 2016 and ends June 30, 2017.

Free Cash: Certified as of each July 1 by the State, this is the portion of Undesignated Fund Balance available for appropriation. It is not cash per se, rather it is approximately the total of cash and receivables less current liabilities and earmarked reserves, reduced also by reserves for uncollected taxes.

Fund: An accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts that is segregated for the purpose of carrying on identified activities or attaining certain objectives in accordance with specific regulations, restrictions or limitations.

General Fund: The fund into which the general (non-earmarked) revenues of the town are deposited and from which money is appropriated to pay expenses.

General Obligation Bonds: Bonds issued by the Town that are backed by the full faith and credit of its taxing authority.

Joint Labor Management Negotiation Process: A negotiation process available to Police and Fire Unions, which utilizes Commonwealth of Massachusetts' mediators and arbitrators. If an arbitration decision is issued, it is binding upon the Executive Branch (The Select Board and Management Staff). Further, the Executive Branch must fully support such an arbitration decision before Town Meeting, even if they believe such a decision is not in the best interest of the Town.

Level-Service Budget: A budget that describes the funding required for maintaining current levels of service or activity, plus cost increases for contractual and mandated obligations. It brings previously approved programs forward at existing levels of service.

Levy Ceiling: A levy ceiling is one of two types of levy (tax) restrictions imposed by MGL Ch. 59 §21C (Proposition $2^{1 / 2}$ ). It states that, in any year, the real and personal property taxes imposed may not exceed $2^{1 / 2}$ percent of the
total full and fair cash value of all taxable property. Property taxes levied may exceed this limit only if the community passes a capital exclusion, debt exclusion, or a special exclusion. (See Levy Limit)

Levy Limit: A levy limit is one of two types of levy (tax) restrictions imposed by MGL Ch. 59 §21C (Proposition $21 / 2$ ). It states that the real and personal property taxes imposed by a city or town may only grow each year by $21 / 2$ percent of the prior year's levy limit, plus new growth and any overrides or exclusions. The levy limit can exceed the levy ceiling only if the community passes a capital expenditure exclusion, debt exclusion, or special exclusion. (See Levy Ceiling)

Local Aid: Revenue allocated by the Commonwealth to cities, towns, and regional school districts. Estimates of local aid are transmitted to cities, towns, and districts annually by the "Cherry Sheets." Most Cherry Sheet aid programs are considered general fund revenues and may be spent for any purpose, subject to appropriation.
M.G.L.: Massachusetts General Laws.

New Growth: The additional tax revenue generated by new construction, renovations and other increases in the property tax base during a calendar year. It does not include value increases caused by normal market forces or by revaluations. New growth is calculated by multiplying the assessed value associated with new construction, renovations and other increases by the prior year tax rate. The additional tax revenue is then incorporated into the calculation of the next year's levy limit.

Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB): The set of benefits, other than pensions, that government employees earn while actively working, but do not receive until they retire. Typically included is health insurance coverage for retirees, their spouses and in some cases their beneficiaries.

Operating Budget: A plan of proposed expenditures for personnel, supplies, and other expenses for the coming fiscal year.

Overlay: (Overlay Reserve or Allowance for Abatements and Exemptions) An account established annually to fund anticipated property tax abatements, exemptions and uncollected taxes in that year. The overlay reserve need not be funded by the normal appropriation process, but rather is raised on the tax rate recapitulation sheet, and cannot exceed an amount deemed reasonable by the Commissioner of Revenue.

Overlay Surplus: Any balance in the overlay account of a given year in excess of the amount remaining to be collected or abated can be transferred into this account. Within 10 days of a written request by the chief executive officer of a city or town, the assessors must provide a certification of the excess amount of overlay available to transfer. Overlay surplus may be appropriated for any lawful purpose. At the end of each fiscal year, unused overlay surplus is "closed" to surplus revenue, i.e., it becomes a part of free cash.

Override: A vote to increase the amount of property tax revenue that may be raised over the levy limit.
Personnel Services: The cost of salaries, wages and related employment benefits.
Purchased Services: The cost of services that are provided by a vendor.
Raise: A phrase used to identify a funding source for an expenditure which refers to money generated by the tax levy or other local receipt.
Reserve Fund: A fund appropriated each year that may be used only by vote of the Finance Committee for "extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures." Revolving Fund: Those funds that may be used for special uses. For example, Recreation fees may be paid into a revolving fund, and expenditures can be made without appropriation with the approval of the Town Administrator.

Revolving funds: are established by state law or town bylaw. Some revolving funds must be annually reauthorized by Town Meeting.

Stabilization Fund: A fund designed to accumulate amounts for capital and other future spending purposes, although it may be appropriated for any lawful purpose (MGL Ch. 40 §5B). Stabilization funds may be established for different purposes, and interest generated by such funds is added to and becomes part of the stabilization fund. A two-thirds vote of town meeting is required to establish, amend the purpose of, or appropriate money into or out of the stabilization fund.

Tax Levy: Total amount of dollars assessed in property taxes imposed by the Town each fiscal year. Tax Rate: The amount of property tax stated in terms of a unit of the municipal tax base; for example, $\$ 14.80$ per $\$ 1,000$ of assessed valuation of taxable real and personal property.

Tax Title (or Tax Taking): A collection procedure that secures a city or town's lien on real property and protects the municipality's right to payment of overdue property taxes. Otherwise, the lien expires if five years elapse from the January 1 assessment date and the property has been transferred to another owner. If amounts remain outstanding on the property after issuing a demand for overdue property taxes and after publishing a notice of tax taking, the collector may take the property for the city or town. After properly recording the instrument of taking, the collector transfers responsibility for collecting the overdue amounts to the treasurer. After six months, the treasurer may initiate foreclosure proceedings.

Tax Title Foreclosure: The procedure initiated by a city or town treasurer in Land Court or through land of low value to obtain legal title to real property already in tax title and on which property taxes are overdue. The treasurer must wait at least six months from the date of a tax taking to initiate Land Court foreclosure proceedings (MGL Ch. 60 §65).

Triennial Certification: The Commissioner of Revenue, through the Bureau of Local Assessment, is required to review local assessed values every three years and to certify that they represent full and fair cash value (FFCV). Refer to MGL Ch. 40 §56 and Ch. 59 §2A(c).

Trust Fund: In general, a fund for money donated or transferred to a municipality with specific instructions on its use. As custodian of trust funds, the treasurer invests and expends such funds as stipulated by trust agreements, as directed by the commissioners of trust funds or by town meeting. Both principal and interest may be used if the trust is established as an expendable trust. For nonexpendable trust funds, only interest (not principal) may be expended as directed.

Turn Back: Unexpended funds of a prior fiscal year operating budget are returned to the Town, which ultimately revert to Free Cash.

Unreserved Fund Balance or Surplus Revenue Account: The amount by which cash, accounts receivable and other assets exceed liabilities and restricted reserves. It is akin to the stockholders equity account on a corporate balance sheet. It is not, however, available for appropriation in full because a portion of the assets listed as "accounts receivable" may be taxes receivable and uncollected. (See Free Cash)

Warrant: An authorization for an action. For example, a town meeting warrant establishes the matters that may be acted on by that town meeting. A treasury warrant authorizes the treasurer to pay specific bills. The assessors' warrant authorizes the tax collector to collect taxes in the amount and from the persons listed, respectively.

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TOWN OF NORTH READING Citizen Activity Form
(Scan QR code to complete this form online)


Paper copies can be returned to: Town Administrator, 235 North St, North Reading 01864
I hereby request to be considered for membership to the following board(s) and/or committee(s): (If more than one, please indicate your preference: 1,2,3...)

| $\square$ Board of Assessors | Economic Development Committee | $\square$ Recreation Committee |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\square$ Board of Health | $\square$ Forest Committee | $\square$ Transportation Committee |
| $\square$ Cable Advisory Committee | - Hillview Commission | $\square$ Veterans Event Committee |
| $\square$ Commission on Disabilities | $\square$ Historical Commission | $\square$ Water Commission |
| $\square$ Conservation Commission | $\square$ Land Utilization Committee | $\square$ Youth Services Committee |
| $\square$ Constables | $\square$ Library Trustees | $\square$ Zoning Board of Appeals |
| $\square$ Council on Aging | Martins Pond Reclamation Study Committee | $\square$ Other: |
| $\square$ Cultural Council | $\square$ Sustainability Committee |  |

Signature of Applicant

Full Name (Print): $\qquad$
E-mail Address: $\qquad$
Residence Address: $\qquad$
Mailing Address: $\qquad$
Phone Number(s):
Please specify:
Home
Office
Mobile

Membership in community organizations:

Do you have any skills, experience, or education you would like to mention?

What is your reason for wanting to serve on this board / committee / other?

Thank you for volunteering to serve your community

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Town of North Reading
Spring Annual Town Meeting
June 10, 2024
North Reading, MA 01864

## RESIDENT

## NORTH READING, MA 01864


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