



SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

June 28, 2023

A TRUE COPY

ATTEST: Brynn C. Durno

Brynn C. Durno, Town Clerk

RETURN OF THE WARRANT

Pursuant to a warrant signed on 15th day of June, 2023 by Select Board Members Chuck Walkovich, Anthony Beattie and Mark Mathews and posted on June 15th by Constable Frank Quattrochi in five public places – Pepperell Town Hall, Pepperell Police Station, Pepperell Post Office, Mel’s Barber Shop and Pepperell Family Pharmacy as well as attested copies online. We, the inhabitants of the Town of Pepperell whom are qualified to vote in Elections and Town affairs are convening here today at Nissitissit Middle School on this 28th day of June, A.D. 2030 to act on the following 2 articles.

There were – 192 – *one hundred and ninety-two registered voters* and -14- *fourteen visitors* in attendance.

The following Board of Registrars checked in voters for the Annual Town Meeting:

Sharon Tetreault, 43 Lawrence Street Jane Eshleman, 125 South Road

Kathy Pries, 3 Blue Herons Way

Moderator Blackburn opened the Annual Town Meeting at 7:04PM. The assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEETING MINUTES

PRELIMINARY MOTION

Simple Majority required for passage

Motion made by: Mark Mathews, Select Board Chair

I move the Moderator allow non-voters or non-residents to speak on issues related to Town Meeting warrant articles where appropriate.

MOTION PASSED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 1 –FUNDING FY2024 BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$710,338.00 from Free Cash, and/or the General Stabilization Fund, and/or other available funds, for Fiscal Year 2024 General Fund Budget expenses, Part III - North Middlesex Regional School District operating assessment, as an addition to the amount appropriated under Article 26 of the warrant for the 2023 Annual Town Meeting (Town Budget), or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: *The Town has an obligation to fund the North Middlesex Regional School District assessment and does not have tax levy capacity to do so. A ballot vote to increase the tax levy was held on June 12,2023 and failed. This article proposes using available funds from Free Cash or General Stabilization to provide funding for this obligation.*

Funds available for appropriation.

	Certified and Available
Free Cash	\$1,091,548
General Stabilization	\$717,696
Capital Stabilization	\$0
Available reserves	\$1,809,244

For cash management purposes, the Finance Director recommends using \$250,000.00 from General Stabilization and \$460,338.00 from Free Cash. If approved in these amounts, the account balances would then be General Stabilization \$467,696.00 and Free Cash \$631,210.00.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends the passage of this article by a vote of 3 to 0.

Recommendation: The Select Board recommends the passage of this article by a vote of 3 to 0.

Two-Thirds Majority required for passage.

Motion Made by: Mark Mathews, Select Board Chair

I move that the Town vote to appropriate \$250,000 from the General Stabilization Fund, for Fiscal Year 2024 General Fund Budget expenses, Part III - North Middlesex Regional School District operating assessment, as an addition to the amount appropriated under Article 26 of the warrant for the 2023 Annual Town Meeting (Town Budget).

MOTION PASSED BY 2/3 VOTE – 155 IN FAVOR, 24 AGAINST

Simple Majority required for passage.

Motion Made by: Mark Mathews, Select Board Chair

I move that the Town vote to appropriate \$460,338.00 from Free Cash, for Fiscal Year 2024 General Fund Budget expenses, Part III - North Middlesex Regional School District operating assessment, as an addition to the amount appropriated under Article 26 of the warrant for the 2023 Annual Town Meeting (Town Budget).

MOTION PASSED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

All Business on the Warrant having been acted upon, a motion was made and seconded to dissolve said Town Meeting at 8:43PM.

(A full videotaped transcript of the 2023 Special Town Meeting and all discussion details is available through Pepperell Community Media)