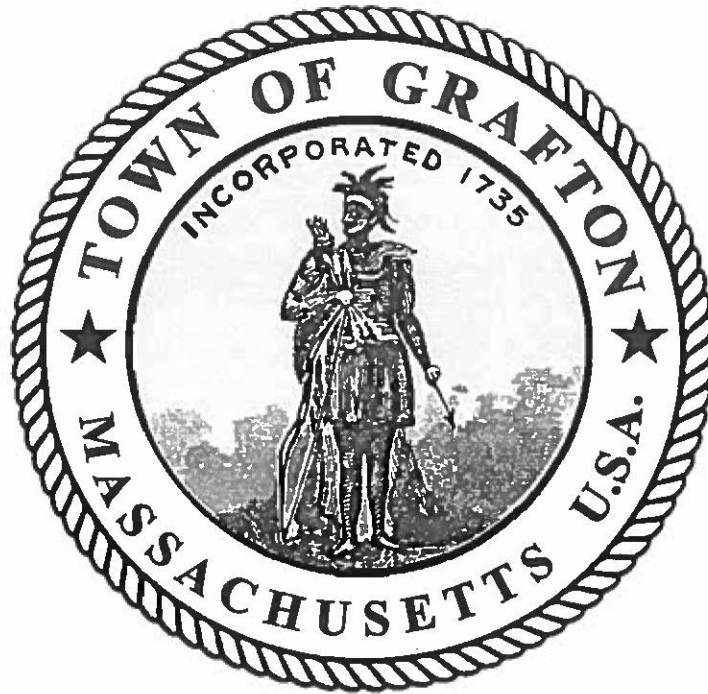


RECEIVED TOWN CLERK
GRAFTON, MA
2021 OCT -8 PM 12:30

TOWN OF GRAFTON
ANNUAL FALL TOWN MEETING WARRANT



MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2021
GRAFTON HIGH SCHOOL
INSIDE THE GRAFTON HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

2021 Grafton Annual Fall Town Meeting Consent Agenda

The purpose of a consent agenda is to act expeditiously upon certain types of articles that historically have generated no controversy and can reasonably be voted upon without debate. With a consent agenda, several articles can be combined for a single vote, thereby ensuring that a greater proportion of Town Meeting time is dedicated to articles that are the subject of genuine debate.

When the Consent Agenda is called, the Moderator will read out the number of each article, one by one. If one or more voter's object to any particular article being included in the Consent Agenda, they may say "hold" in a loud voice when that Article's number is called. That Article will then be removed from the Consent Agenda and restored to its original place in the Warrant, to be debated and voted upon in the usual manner. After the calling of the individual Articles in the Consent Agenda, the Moderator will ask for a motion that the voters pass all remaining Consent Agenda Articles AS A UNIT, with a single vote. Use of the Consent agenda makes the Town Meeting more efficient by speeding up the handling of non-controversial items, thereby allowing more time for discussion where genuine concern exists.

In this Warrant we will be taking up four consent agendas. The Consent Agendas below will be taken up before Article 1 at the Annual Fall Town Meeting on Monday October 18, 2021.

Please review the list of articles and motions proposed for each Consent Item which follows.

Consent Motion 1 pertains to Donation of Land Articles

Consent Motion 1: I move that the Town vote to act upon Article 1, 2, and 3 and that they be "passed by consent."

Consent Motion 2 pertains to Community Preservation Act Articles

Consent Motion 2: I move that the Town vote to act upon Article 4 and 5 and that they be "passed by consent."

Consent Motion 3 pertains to Infrastructure Expense Articles

Consent Motion 3: I move that the Town vote to act upon Article 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 and that they be "passed by consent."

Consent Motion 4 pertains to Road Construction Easement Articles

Consent Motion 4: I move that the Town vote to act upon Article 14, 15, and 16 and that they be "passed by consent."

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF GRAFTON
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
OCTOBER 18, 2021
7:30 PM

Worcester, ss:

To Either of the Constables of the Town of Grafton, in the County of Worcester.

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Grafton, qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs, to meet in the Grafton High School located at 24 Providence Road on Monday, the Eighteenth (18) Day of October 2021, at Seven Thirty (7:30) PM to act on the following articles, to wit:

ARTICLE 1 (CONSENT MOTION 1):

To see if the Town will vote to accept the donation of real estate comprising a parcel of land known and numbered as 101 Pine Street, or take any other action relative thereto

Submitted by: Town Administrator

Required Vote: *MAJORITY*

Finance Committee Recommends Passage of Article 1 as written, allowing the town to accept the donation of land at 101 Pine Street with the understanding that doing so will have no financial impact on the Town.

ARTICLE 2 (CONSENT MOTION 1):

To see if the Town will vote to accept the donation of real estate comprising a parcel of land known and numbered as 5 Rear Carriage House Lane and place said land under the care of the Conservation Commission, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Conservation Commission

Required Vote: *MAJORITY*

Finance Committee recommends the Passage of Article 2 as written, allowing the Town to accept the donation of land at 5 Rear Carriage House Lane with the understanding that doing so will have no financial impact on the Town.

ARTICLE 3 (CONSENT MOTION 1):

To see if the Town will vote to accept the donation of real estate comprising a parcel of land known and numbered as 11 Rear Appaloosa Drive and place said land under the care of the Conservation Commission, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Conservation Commission

Required Vote: *MAJORITY*

Finance Committee recommends the Passage of Article 3 as written, allowing the Town to accept the donation of land at 11 Rear Appaloosa Drive with the understanding that doing so will have no financial impact on the Town.

ARTICLE 4 (CONSENT MOTION 2):

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Forty-Seven Thousand Dollars (\$47,000.00) from the Community Preservation Act FY2022 Budgeted Reserve for design services to develop a passive recreation park on land located at 95 North Street and donated specifically for this purpose, with such funds to be expended by June 30, 2023, unless the CPC by majority vote extends the deadline, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Community Preservation Committee

Required Vote: **MAJORITY**

Finance Committee recommends the passage of Article 4 as written in the amount of \$47,000.00.

ARTICLE 5 (CONSENT MOTION 2):

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Thirteen Thousand Dollars (\$13,000.00) from the Community Preservation Act Historical Reserve for the restoration of historic town records with such funds to be expended by June 30, 2024 unless the CPC by majority vote extends the deadline, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Community Preservation Committee

Required Vote: **MAJORITY**

Finance Committee recommends the passage of Article 5 as written in the amount of \$13,000.00

ARTICLE 6 (CONSENT MOTION 3):

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to the Follette Street Well Project Account for the purpose of funding the Follette Street Well Project, pursuant to Article 10 of the May 11, 2009 Special Town Meeting, or take any other action relative thereto

Submitted by: Town Administrator

Required Vote: **MAJORITY**

Finance Committee recommends the passage of Article 6 to authorize a transfer of \$10,000.00 from Free Cash for the testing of the Follette Street Well.

ARTICLE 7 (CONSENT MOTION 3):

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$100,000.00 from the Sewer Retained Earnings Account to the Plant Upgrade/Expansion Account, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Sewer Commissioners

Required Vote: **MAJORITY**

Finance Committee recommends the passage of Article 7 to authorize the transfer of \$100,000.00 from the Sewer Retained Earnings Account to the Plant Upgrade/Expansion Account.

ARTICLE 8 (CONSENT MOTION 3):

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$100,000.00 from the Sewer Retained Earnings Account to the Major Equipment Repair/Replacement Account, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Sewer Commissioners

Required Vote: *MAJORITY*

Finance Committee recommends the passage of Article 8 to authorize the transfer of \$100,000.00 from the Sewer Retained Earnings Account to the Major Equipment Repair/Replacement Account.

ARTICLE 9 (CONSENT MOTION 3):

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$1,000,000.00 from Sewer Retained Earnings Account to the Inflow & Infiltration Inspection and Repair Account, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Sewer Commissioners

Required Vote: *MAJORITY*

Finance Committee recommends the passage of Article 9 to authorize the transfer of \$1,000,000.00 from the Sewer Retained Earnings Account to the Inflow & Infiltrating Inspection and Repair Account.

ARTICLE 10 (CONSENT MOTION 3):

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer a sum of money to the Long-Range Tree Removal Capital Account, established under Article 14 of the May 2019 Annual Town Meeting, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Department of Public Works

Required Vote: *MAJORITY*

Finance Committee recommends the passage of Article 10, to authorize the transfer of \$50,000.00 from Free Cash to the Long-Range Tree Removal Capital Account.

ARTICLE 11 (CONSENT MOTION 3):

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer a sum of money from Free Cash for the design engineering of George Hill Road, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Department of Public Works

Required Vote: *MAJORITY*

Finance Committee recommends the passage of Article 11 to authorize the transfer of \$500,000.00 from Free Cash for the engineering of George Hill Road in the absence of State or Federal Funding.

ARTICLE 12 (CONSENT MOTION 3):

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer a sum of money from the Rt. 30 Paving Account to the Road Stabilization Override Account, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Department of Public Works

Required Vote: *MAJORITY*

Finance Committee Recommends the Passage of Article 12 to authorize the transfer of \$231,640.00 from the Rt. 30 Paving Account to the Road Stabilization Override Account.

ARTICLE 13 (CONSENT MOTION 3):

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer and appropriate a sum of money for the Loader 38 rehabilitation project, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Department of Public Works

Required Vote: *MAJORITY*

Finance Committee recommends the passage of Article 13 to authorize the transfer and appropriation of \$19,698.00 from the Town Truck #44 Replacement Account, \$6,495.25 from the Town Dump Truck #47 Account, and \$10,000.00 from Free Cash for the Loader 38 rehabilitation project.

ARTICLE 14 (CONSENT MOTION 4):

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to negotiate with property owners the acquisition by gift, purchase, or Eminent Domain, of certain temporary and permanent easements to real property abutting Millbury Street and Crosby Road, that are necessary for the laying of sidewalk, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Department of Public Works

Required Vote: *MAJORITY*

Finance Committee Recommends the passage of Article 14 to allow the Select Board to negotiate the acquisition of certain temporary and permanent easements of real property abutting the streets and road specified in Article 14.

ARTICLE 15 (CONSENT MOTION 4):

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to negotiate with property owners the acquisition by gift, purchase, or Eminent Domain, of certain temporary and permanent easements to real property abutting Follette Street, that are necessary for the replacement of the Depot Street Sutton Bridge, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Department of Public Works

Required Vote: *MAJORITY*

Finance Committee Recommends the passage of Article 15 to allow the Select Board to negotiate the acquisition of certain temporary and permanent easements of real property abutting the streets and road specified in Article 15.

ARTICLE 16 (CONSENT MOTION 4):

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to negotiate with property owners the acquisition by gift, purchase, or Eminent Domain, of certain temporary and permanent easements to real property abutting George Hill Road, Leland Street, Soap Hill Road, Stowe Road, and Fay Mountain Road, that are necessary for the improvements of George Hill Road, Leland Street, Soap Hill Road, Stowe Road, and Fay Mountain Road, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Department of Public Works

Required Vote: **MAJORITY**

Finance Committee Recommends the passage of Article 16 to allow the Select Board to negotiate the acquisition of certain temporary and permanent easements of real property abutting the streets and road specified in Article 16.

ARTICLE 17:

To see if the Town will vote to identify the specific programs and/or activities on which funds may be expended that are held in the School Extended Services Revolving Fund established by Article 9 on May 13, 2019, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

Required Vote: **MAJORITY**

Finance Committee recommends passing over article 17.

ARTICLE 18:

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money toward a program of lease payments on capital items, purchases, improvements, and special articles as generally illustrated in Appendix A, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

Required Vote: **TWO-THIRDS**

Finance Committee recommends the passage of Article 18 as written in the amount of \$146,625.00 for the funding of the Capital Items detailed in Appendix A, with funding for these Capital Items coming from Free Cash.

ARTICLE 19:

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Grafton General By-Laws, by repealing Article 2 Section 1A and replacing it with the new wording below, and further that the Town authorize non-substantive changes to the lettering and numbering of the Town of Grafton General By-Laws.

SECTION 1A. The spring session of the annual town meeting shall be held on the second Saturday in May of each year and the fall session on the third Saturday in October, both sessions to begin at 10:30 AM. If there is unfinished business then subsequent meetings shall be held on the following Saturday mornings at 10:30 AM until final adjournment.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Select Board

Required Vote: **MAJORITY**

Finance Committee recommends the passage of Article 19 to authorize changes to Article 2 Section 1A of the Grafton General By-Laws to change the date of the Annual Spring and Fall session of Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 20:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$1,500,000.00 from the Road Improvement Stabilization Fund to the Road Improvement Capital Expenditures Fund for road improvement projects consistent with Chapter 90 rules and regulations as recommended by the DPW Advisory committee and approved by the Town Administrator, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

Required Vote: *TWO-THIRDS*

Finance Committee recommends the passage of Article 20 to authorize the transfer and appropriation of funds in the amount of \$1,500,000.00 from the Road Improvement Stabilization Fund to the Road Improvement Capital Expenditures Fund.

ARTICLE 21:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate a sum of money from available sources to the Stabilization Fund, the OPEB Trust Account, and to the Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

Required Vote: *TWO-THIRDS*

Finance Committee recommends the passage of Article 21 to allow for the transfer of funds in the amount of \$974,296.50 from the sale of 8 Pine Street to the following accounts and in the following amounts: \$100,000 to the OPEB Trust Account, \$374,296.50 to the Stabilization Fund and \$500,000 to the Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund.

ARTICLE 22:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize payment of any prior fiscal year bills from available sources, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Finance Director

Required Vote: *NINE-TENTHS*

Finance Committee recommends the passage of Article 22 in the amount of \$3,483.27 for the purpose of paying bills from prior fiscal years. The prior fiscal year bills to be paid are as follows: (1) \$1239.80 to the New England Medical Billing Group, Ltd., (2) \$248.21 to the New England Medical Billing Group, Ltd., (3) \$1,261.42 to E.L. Harvey, (4) \$733.84 to the New England Medical Billing Group, Ltd.

ARTICLE 23:

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Grafton Town By-Laws by repealing Article 34, Chapter 1, and replacing it with the new wording below, and further that the Town authorize non-substantive changes to the lettering and numbering of the Town of Grafton General By-Laws.

Grafton hereby establishes a Community Preservation Committee consisting of nine (9) members pursuant to G.L. Chapter 44B. The Committee will be responsible for making recommendations to Town Meeting on Community Preservation.

The composition, terms, and appointment of the Committee shall be as follows: One member of the Conservation Commission as designated by the Commission; one member of the Historical Commission as designated by the Commission; one member of the Grafton Housing Authority as designated by the Authority, one member of the Planning Board as designated by the Board; one member of the Recreation Commission as designated by the Commission; one member of the Veterans Affairs Committee as designated by the Committee; and three at-large members as appointed by the Select Board.

At-large members shall be appointed to the following terms: one for a one-year term, one for a two-year term, and one from a three-year term. All subsequent terms will be for three years and all members of the Committee may be reappointed.

Should any Commissions, Boards, or Committees who have appointment authority under this chapter no longer be in existence for whatever reason, the appointing authority for that Commission, Board, or Committee shall become the responsibility of the Select Board.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Select Board

Required Vote: **MAJORITY**

Finance Committee opposes the passage of Article 23.

ARTICLE 24:

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town Charter as follows:

Section 3-1: General Provision

Amending Article 3, Section 3-1 by deleting "Town Clerk:

(a) **Elective offices** – The Town offices to be filled by ballot of the whole town shall be a Select Board, a School Committee, a Board of Library Trustees, and a Town Moderator Planning Board, ~~Town Clerk~~. In addition, members of a Housing Authority, and such members of regional authorities or districts as may be established by statute, inter-local agreement or otherwise shall also be elected at Town election.

Section 3-5: Town Clerk

Amending Article 3, Section 3-5 by deleting Section 3-5: Town Clerk in its entirety

~~(a) **Term of Office**—There shall be a town clerk elected for a term of three years.~~

~~(b) Powers and Duties – The town clerk shall be the keeper of vital statistics for the town; the eustodian of the town seal; shall administer the oath of office to all persons, elected or appointed to any town office; shall issue such licenses and permits as are required by law to be issued by town clerks; supervise and manage the conduct of all elections and all other matters relating to elections be the clerk of the town meeting, keep its records and in the absence of the town moderator or deputy town moderator to preside pending the election of a temporary town moderator. The town clerk shall have such other powers and duties as are given to town clerks by general law, by this charter, by by law or by other vote of the town meeting.~~

And amending Article 5 – Administrative Organization by adding a new Section 5-7: Town Clerk to read as follows:

Section 5-7: Town Clerk

(a) **Term of Office** – There shall be a Town Clerk appointed by the Town Administrator for a term of three years.

(b) **Powers and Duties** - The town clerk shall be the keeper of vital statistics for the town; the custodian of the town seal; shall administer the oath of office to all persons, elected or appointed to any town office; shall issue such licenses and permits as are required by law to be issued by town clerks; supervise and manage the conduct of all elections and all other matters relating to elections be the clerk of the town meeting, keep its records and in the absence of the town moderator or deputy town moderator to preside pending the election of a temporary town moderator. The town clerk shall have such other powers and duties as are given to town clerks by general law, by this charter, by by-law or by other vote of the town meeting.

or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Select Board

Required Vote: *MAJORITY*

Finance Committee recommends the passage of Article 24 to authorize changes to Section 3-1, Section 3-5, to the Grafton Town Charter and to create section 5-7 in the Grafton Town Charter.

ARTICLE 25:

To see if the Town will vote to remove the restrictions placed on 25 Worcester Street, Grafton, Massachusetts, (“for the purpose of constructing senior (age 55 and over) affordable housing”) by Town Meeting in Article 41 on June 20, 2020, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Affordable Housing Trust

Required Vote: *MAJORITY*

Finance Committee recommends the passage of Article 25 to remove the age restrictions placed on the deed to 25 Worcester Street.

And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting up an attested copy thereof in some conspicuous place in each of the precincts of the Town at least fourteen days before said meeting.

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.

Given under our hands the _____ day of September in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-one.

Peter Carlson, Chair

Colleen Roy, Vice Chair

Mathew Often, Clerk

Doreen DeFazio

Raymond Mead

A TRUE COPY,
ATTEST:

September , 2021

I have complied with the requirements of the above Warrant and with the Town of Grafton By-laws by posting an attested copy of the Warrant in some conspicuous place in each of the precincts of the Town on the above date.

Constable of Grafton

APPENDIX A:

Department	Item	Amount	Notes
Municipal Center	Boiler Room Upgrades	\$ 50,000.00	1
Town Administrator	Demolition of 60 Depot Street	\$ 30,000.00	2
Finance	Financial Accounting Software	\$ 16,625.00	3
Town Administrator	Carpet and Furniture Replacements	\$ 25,000.00	4
Technology	Firewall Replacement	\$ 25,000.00	5
Total		\$ 146,625.00	

- 1 – Addition of Filter to HVAC system. ROI is 6 Years.
- 2 – Attractive nuisance owned by the Town presenting a Public Safety Hazard.
- 3 – Facilitating move to VADAR.
- 4 – Carpet has impact on staff and air quality.
- 5 – Identified as an immediate need for security purposes.