

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF WESTFORD
WARRANT**

**Middlesex, ss.
To the Constable of the Town of Westford, in said County,**

GREETINGS:

You are required in the name of the Commonwealth aforesaid, to notify and warn all inhabitants of said Town qualified to vote in elections, and also in Town affairs, to meet at the Westford Academy Gymnasium at 30 Patten Road on the following date:

Monday, October 16, 2023
(voter registration deadline, Friday, October 6, 2023 at 5:00 pm)

at 7:00 o'clock in the evening, then and there to act upon the following articles:

FINANCIAL – FISCAL YEAR 2024

ARTICLE 1: Approve Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Adjustments *Town Manager*

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds sums of money in order to adjust certain line items in the Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budgets;

Or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 2: Appropriate Opioid Settlement Funds *Town Manager*

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds, or any combination thereof, amounts received from Statewide Opioid Settlements between the Massachusetts Attorney General and non-bankrupt opioid industry participants, for the funding of prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery programs as further detailed in the Massachusetts State Subdivision Agreement for Statewide Opioid Settlements;

Or act in relation thereto.

CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS - FISCAL YEAR 2024

ARTICLE 3: Approve Capital Appropriations *Capital Planning Committee*

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds, or any combination thereof, a sum of money to provide for the following capital requests and all costs incidental and related thereto:

<i>DEPARTMENT</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>	<i>PURPOSE</i>
Public Buildings	\$15,000	DPW Garage Replacement Compressors for the HVAC System
Public Buildings	\$200,000	Police Station Attic and Pipe Insulation
Schools	\$1,000,000	Blanchard Middle School Roof Top Air Conditioning Units, Ventilation Units, and other Associated Labor and Material Costs
Engineering	\$150,000	Stony Brook Bridge Resident Relocation & Right of Way
Water Enterprise	\$350,000	Forge Treatment Repairs
Water Enterprise	\$250,000	PFAS Treatment Facilities – Preliminary Design

Or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 4: Reduce Amount Raised by Taxes in Fiscal Year 2024 *Select Board*

To see if the Town will vote to take specific amounts from available funds and to direct the Assessor to reduce the net amount to be raised by taxation for Fiscal Year 2024;

Or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 5: Rescind Authorized and Unissued Debt *Town Manager*

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the following amounts that have been authorized to be borrowed for the following purposes, pursuant to the votes and articles as listed below, which amounts have not been issued and/or are no longer needed;

<i>Unissued Amount</i>	<i>Date of Warrant Approval</i>	<i>Article Number</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
\$901,750	03/22/2014	11	Robinson and Day School Window and Door Replacement
\$6,298	03/28/2015	8	Center Fire Station on Boston Road
\$686,442	03/24/2018	10	Abbot School Roof Replacement
\$320,000	03/24/2018	12	Vine Brook Road Water Distribution System
\$130,000	06/20/2020	3	Kirsi Circle, Douglas Road, and Anderson Lane Water Main Replacement
\$110,000	06/20/2020	3	Portable Radios for School Staff
\$23	06/12/2021	4	Fire Truck
\$128,000	06/12/2021	5	Pine Grove Cemetery Enlargement

Or act in relation thereto.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDS

ARTICLE 6: Approve Community Preservation Committee Recommendations *Community Preservation Committee*

To see if the Town will vote to hear and act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2024 Community Preservation budget and to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund a sum of money not exceeding 5% of the Fiscal Year 2024 estimated annual revenues to meet the administrative expenses and all other necessary and proper expenses of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2024; and further to reserve for future appropriation a sum of money from the Community Preservation Fund for open space, historic resources, community housing purposes, and outdoor recreation, and further to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund or borrow pursuant to MGL c. 44B, Section 11, or any other enabling authority, a sum or sums of money for Community Preservation projects or purposes, including acquisition of interests in land, all as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee;

Or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 7: Authorization for the Select Board to Petition the General Court for Special Legislation to Amend the Town's Means Tested Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption Act *Select Board*

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for special legislation to amend Chapter 314 of the Acts of 2020, which authorized the Town to establish a means tested senior citizen tax exemption for a period of three years by removing the three year limitation and making other editorial changes as shown below; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approve amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court, and authorizing the Select Board to approve amendments

which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition, or take any action thereon or in relation thereto:

AN ACT AMENDING THE TOWN OF WESTFORD 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. Subsection (iii) of Section 2 of Chapter 314 of the Acts of 2020 is hereby amended by striking out the words “In no event shall property taxes be reduced by more than 50 per cent by this exemption” and inserting in place thereof the following words: - provided, however, that in no event shall the amount of this exemption constitute more than 50 per cent of the property tax.

SECTION 2. Subsection (e) of Section 3 of Chapter 314 of the Acts of 2020 is hereby amended by striking out the words “and (ii) the valuation limit established in clause (ii) of paragraph (3) of subsection (k) of section 6 of chapter 62 and adjusted pursuant to paragraph (4) of said subsection (k) of said section 6 of said chapter 62 for the prior year”

SECTION 3. Chapter 314 of the Acts of 2020 is hereby amended by striking out Section 9.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon passage.

ADMINISTRATIVE

ARTICLE 8: Authorize the School Bus Transportation Contract for up to Five Years	<i>School Committee</i>
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To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to enter into a service agreement for the purpose of providing student bus transportation with an effective date of July 1, 2024, and to allow the School Committee to enter into a contract for up to five years;

Or act in relation thereto.

ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT

ARTICLE 9: Amend the Zoning Bylaw to Define and Regulate Firearm Businesses and Related Terms	<i>Select Board and Planning Board</i>
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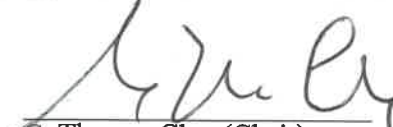
To see if the Town will vote to amend Appendix A (Table of Principle Use Regulations) and Section 10.2 (Definitions) of the Zoning Bylaw, and to Create a new Section 6.6 of the Zoning Bylaw, to regulate by Special Permit the location, siting, design, placement, security, safety, monitoring and other requirements for Firearms Businesses in the Town of Westford; and to enumerate criteria for the establishment of Firearm Businesses in town to address public safety concerns arising from the use of land, buildings, and structures for the operation of such businesses, and the potential disruption of peace and quiet enjoyment of the community, and related changes, copies of which are on file at the Office of the Planning Board and on the Town’s website at <https://www.westfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/Index/1494>;

Or act in relation thereto.

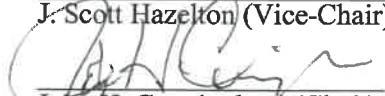
And you, Constable, are directed to serve this warrant by posting a true and attested copy thereof at the Town Hall, Library and at each Post Office in said Town of Westford at least fourteen (14) days prior to the time of holding said meeting.

THEREOF FAIL NOT and make return of this warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of holding the meeting aforesaid.


Given under our hands this 26 day of September in the Year of our Lord 2023.


G. Thomas Clay (Chair)

J. Scott Hazelton (Vice-Chair)


John H. Cunningham (Clerk)


Chris Barrett


Andrea Peraner-Sweet

A TRUE COPY
ATTEST: 
Constable of Westford

DATE: Sept 27, 2023

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE SERVED THE FOREGOING WARRANT BY POSTING A TRUE AND ATTESTED COPY THEREOF AT THE TOWN HALL, LIBRARY AND AT EACH POST OFFICE IN THE SAID TOWN OF WESTFORD AT LEAST FOURTEEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE TIME OF HOLDING SAID MEETING.

