

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Monday, May 6, 2024

At 7:00 O'clock in the Evening
At the Pioneer Valley Regional School, 97 F. Sumner Turner Rd.

147 Registered Voters in attendance. Meeting START at 7:09 PM

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to WAIVE THE READING OF THE WARRANT AND THE NOTICE to the Constables and act on the motions of the following articles: or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to HEAR AND ACT UPON THE REPORTS OF THE SEVERAL TOWN OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND TRUSTEES; or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to AUTHORIZE THE SELECT BOARD TO APPLY FOR STATE OR FEDERAL GRANTS, AND TO EXPEND ANY MONIES RECEIVED, as set forth in the appropriate grant application; or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

MODERATOR MOTION TO ACCEPT ARTICLES 1, 2, AND 3 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote, under the provisions of the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 41, §108, and any amendments thereto, to fix the salaries of all elected officials for Fiscal Year 2025, and raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds any sum or sums therefor, and further raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds any sum or sums of money for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town, and for other necessary charges, in accordance with the amount recommended by the Finance Committee as shown in the final column of the Warrant; or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

	FY2024 Appropriation	FY2025 Requested	Committee Recommended
GENERAL GOVERNMENT			
MODERATOR SALARY	81	84	84
MODERATOR EXPENSE	10	10	10
SELECT BOARD STIPENDS	12,624	13,002	13,002
SECRETARY SALARY	60,311	62,121	62,121
SELECT BOARD WAGES PT	14,011	19,296	19,296
SELECT BOARD EXPENSE	23,750	25,000	25,000
TOWN ADMIN SALARY	115,670	119,149	119,149
TOWN ADMIN EXPENSE	4,500	4,500	4,500
FINANCE COMMITTEE EXP	200	200	200

RESERVE FUND	55,000	55,000	55,000
ACCOUNTANT SALARY	39,104	47,502	47,502
ACCOUNTANT EXPENSE	750	750	750
AUDIT	17,000	18,000	18,000
FINANCIAL ASSISTANT	22,210	16,650	16,650
ASSESSORS STIPENDS	7,013	7,223	7,223
ASSESSORS CLK WAGES	48,291	49,739	49,739
ASSESSORS PROPT INSPE	39,300	39,300	39,300
ASSESSORS EXPENSE	19,250	54,950	54,950
TREASURER SALARY	31,340	33,021	33,021
TREASURER EXPENSE	15,900	16,368	16,368
TAX COLLECTOR SALARY	31,340	33,021	33,021
TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSE	12,900	13,368	13,368
TOWN LEGAL EXPENSE	40,000	40,000	40,000
COMPUTER SUPPLY & SVC	77,455	77,455	77,455
TAX TITLE	3,700	3,800	3,800
TOWN CLERK SALARY	47,228	48,262	48,262
TOWN CLERK EXPENSE	19,837	22,051	22,051
ELECTIONS/REGISTRAR	16,050	17,550	17,550
CONS COMM EXPENSE	1,000	1,000	1,000
PLANNING BD STIPENDS	6,000	6,180	6,180
PLANNING BD EXPENSE	3,770	3,770	3,770
ZBA EXPENSE	3,869	3,945	3,945
OPEN SPACE COMMISSION	1,500	1,500	1,500
AG COMMISSION EXPENSE	800	800	800
CUSTODIAN WAGES	21,284	21,923	21,923
TOWN HALL MAINTENANCE	70,500	74,700	74,700
TOWN REPORTS	1,000	3,000	3,000
TOWN CLOCK	175	200	200
TOTAL	884,723	954,390	954,390
PUBLIC SAFETY			
POLICE SALARIES/WAGES	506,953	511,072	511,072
POLICE OPERATING EXP	60,438	60,438	60,438
FIRE DEPT STIPENDS	6,970	7,176	7,176
FIRE DEPARTMENT WAGES	58,486	60,241	60,241
FIRE DEPT OPERAT/MAINT	50,870	53,000	53,000
FIRE DEPT HOSE & EQUIP	12,000	12,000	12,000
FIRE DEPT INSPECT FEES	3,500	3,500	3,500
FIRE HYDRANTS	7,600	7,600	7,600
FIRE PONDS	3,000	3,000	3,000
BLDING INSPECT SALARY	34,992	36,042	36,042
BLDING INSPECT EXPENSE	750	750	750
GAS INSPECTIONS	500	0	0
PLUMBING INSPECTIONS	500	2,300	2,300
WIRE INSPECTIONS	500	2,300	2,300
CIVIL DEFENSE	7,750	8,500	8,500

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER	8,870	8,870	8,870
ANIMAL CONTROL EXP	700	1,000	1,000
TREE DEPARTMENT EXP	10,000	11,500	11,500
CONSTABLE WAGES	3,429	3,532	3,532
CONSTABLE EXPENSE	300	300	300
TOTAL	778,858	793,121	793,121
PUBLIC WORKS/FACILITIES			
HIGHWAY ADMIN EXPENSE	19,600	19,600	19,600
HIGHWAY DEPT WAGES	318,502	261,959	261,959
HIGHWAYS, BRIDGES/RAILS	286,460	326,560	326,560
OIL & STONING	100,000	150,000	150,000
SNOW & ICE EXPENSE	100,390	100,390	100,390
SNOW & ICE WAGES	89,952	160,660	160,660
STREET LIGHTS	17,000	18,000	18,000
MACHINE/FACILITIES MAINT	127,000	140,800	140,800
SOLID WASTE DISTRICT	14,986	15,756	15,756
TRANSFER STATION	192,845	204,195	204,195
CEMETERY WAGES/EXP	35,000	35,000	35,000
TOTAL	1,301,735	1,432,920	1,432,920
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES			
BD OF HEALTH STIPENDS	3,214	3,310	3,310
SEPTIC INSPECTION FEES	2,500	1,500	1,500
BD OF HEALTH EXPENSE	7,350	7,960	7,960
SHARED HEALTH AGENT	12,998	12,998	12,998
REGIONAL NURSE	16,367	16,367	16,367
MOSQUITO CONTROL	5,000	5,000	5,000
ANIMAL INSPECTOR	2,915	2,987	2,987
COUNCIL ON AGING	101,356	115,080	115,080
SOLDIERS RELIEF	10,000	10,000	10,000
TOTAL	161,700	175,202	175,202
CULTURE/REC/OTHER			
DICKINSON LIB WAGES	139,128	147,714	147,714
DICKINSON LIB EXPENSE	54,145	55,250	55,250
NFLD FARMS LIBRARY	1,000	1,200	1,200
RECREATION COMMISSION	22,588	27,000	27,000
REC PROGRAM DIRECTOR	20,482	39,000	39,000
MAINT ATHLETIC FIELD	8,250	8,250	8,250
HISTORICAL COMMISSION	500	500	500
MAINT HISTORIC MARKERS	500	500	500
MEMORIAL DAY	2,500	2,500	2,500
VETERANS MEMORIAL COM	1,000	1,000	1,000
FRCOG ASSESSMENT	26,915	28,878	28,878
VETERANS DISTRICT	8,985	9,814	9,814

TOTAL	285,993	321,606	321,606
DEBT SERVICE			
INTEREST ON NOTES	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0
INSURANCE/RETIREMENT			
COUNTY RETIREMENT	223,878	241,737	241,737
INSURANCE & BENEFITS	483,989	525,063	525,063
TOTAL	707,867	766,800	766,800
TOTAL	4,120,876	4,444,039	4,444,039
			4,446,739*

***ARTICLE 4 AMENDMENT INCREASED TOTAL BY \$2,700 FOR A NEW TOTAL OF 4,446,739**

MOTION: I move the Town, under the provisions of the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 41, §108, and any amendments thereto, fix the salaries of all elected officials for Fiscal Year 2025, and raise and appropriate the sums therefore and the sums for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town in accordance with the amount recommended by the Finance Committee as shown in the final column of the Warrant, as a Grand Total of the Omnibus article of \$4,444,039.

MOTION BY BILL LLEWELYN, SECOND BY DAN CAMPBELL TO AMEND ARTICLE 4 "TO INCREASE CONS COMM EXPENSE IN SECTION 1 GENERAL GOVERNMENT BY \$2700 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING OUR COMMISSION SECRETARY" MAKING THE TOTAL \$4,446,739

MOTION TO AMEND ARTICLE 4 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION AS AMENDED: I move the Town, under the provisions of the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 41, §108, and any amendments thereto, fix the salaries of all elected officials for Fiscal Year 2025, and raise and appropriate the sums therefore and the sums for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town in accordance with the amount recommended by the Finance Committee as shown in the final column of the Warrant, as a Grand Total of the Omnibus article of \$4,444,039. \$4,446,739

MOTION BY: DANIEL CAMPBELL SECOND BY ALEX MEISNER

[VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY] PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums for EDUCATION EXPENSES in accordance with the amount recommended by the Finance Committee as shown in the final column of the Warrant; or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto, or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

	FY2024 Appropriation	FY2025 Request	FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED
EDUCATION			

NFLD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MAINT	0	25,000	25,000
SCHOOL COMMITTEE STIPENDS	881	908	908
PVRS ASSESSMENT	4,711,438	4,713,157	4,713,157
FCTS OPERATING ASSESSMENT	650,700	715,827	715,827
FCTS CAPITAL ASSESSMENT	11,433	11,662	11,662
TUITION & TRANSPORT OUT OF DISTRICT	55,000	40,000	40,000
TOTAL	5,429,452	5,506,554	5,506,554

Submitted by the Select Board.

MOTION: I move the Town vote to raise and appropriate, in accordance with the amount recommended by the Finance Committee as shown in the final column of the Warrant, as a Grand Total for Education Expenses of \$5,506,554.

MOTION BY: DANIEL CAMPBELL, SECOND BY BERNARD BOUDREAU

[VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY] **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide the sums recommended, or any other sum or sums, for CAPITAL PROJECTS AT THE NORTHFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

Item Description	Amount	Repair/replace flooring	\$	10,000
		NES Freezer	\$	45,000
		Total	\$	55,000

or take any other action relative thereon or in relation thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board.

MOTION: I move that the Town transfer \$55,000 from Free Cash to pay for the capital projects as listed in Article 6 for the Northfield Elementary School.

MOTION BY: HEATH CUMMINGS SECOND BY BARBARA JACQUE

[VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY] **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum or sums of money to operate the EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ENTERPRISE FUND as shown below or take any other action relative thereon or in relation thereto:

Item Description	Amount
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Wages and Salaries	\$ 623,849
Expenses	\$ 198,219
Budgeted Surplus	\$ 0
Total:	\$ 822,067

and that \$822,067 be raised as follows:

Department Receipts	\$ 797,067
Town Tax Levy	\$ 25,000
Total:	\$ 822,067

Submitted by the Select Board.

MOTION: I move the Town raise from Departmental Receipts the sum of \$797,067, and from the Town Tax Levy the sum of \$25,000 to operate the Emergency Medical Services Enterprise Fund as set forth in Article 7.

MOTION BY: BARBARA JACQUE SECOND BY ALEX MEISNER

[VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY] **PASSED MAJORITY**

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum or sums of money to operate the SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND as shown below or take any other action relative thereon or in relation thereto:

Item Description	Amount	AMENDED
Sewer Commissioner Salaries	\$ 3,301	\$ 3,399
Sewer Dept. Collector	\$ 5,071	\$ 5,071
Sewer Dept. Wages	\$ 217,248	\$ 217,248
Oper. & Maint. Sewer Plant	\$ 215,248	\$ 215,168
Reserve Fund	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Maturing Debt - Principal	\$ 23,000	\$ 23,000
Maturing Debt - Interest	\$ 0	\$ 0
Transfer To General Fund	\$ 44,280	\$ 55,000
Total:	\$ 528,069	\$ 538,886

and that \$528,069 be raised as follows:

Department Receipts	\$ 528,069	\$ 538,886
Town Tax Levy	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total:	\$ 528,069	\$ 538,886

Submitted by the Sewer Commission

MOTION: I move the town raise from departmental receipts the sum of \$538,886 to operate the sewer enterprise fund as set forth in the right column of the chart under article 8 as printed in the transcript of articles and motions.

MOTION BY: BERNARD BOUDREAU SECOND BY BARBARA JACQUE

[VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY] **PASSED MAJORITY**

NOTES ON THE AMENDMENT: The \$44,280 amount originally listed in the warrant as a transfer to the general fund was inadvertently transferred and not amended once the new number was calculated. The original sewer commissioner salaries was printed without including the Town's recommended COLA.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum or sums of money from the SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND for REMOTE ACCESS improvements for the Sewer Treatment Plant, or take any other action relative thereon or in relation thereto.

Submitted by the Sewer Commission

MOTION: I move the Town raise from Departmental Receipts the sum of \$20,000 to Pay for remote access improvements for the Sewer Treatment Plant.

MOTION BY: SARAH KERNS SECOND BY ALEX MEISNER

[VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY] **PASSED MAJORITY**

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to fix the maximum amount that may be spent during fiscal year 2025 beginning on July 1, 2024 for the REVOLVING FUNDS established in the town by-laws for certain departments, board, committees, agencies, or officers in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c.44, §53E½, as most recently amended, or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto:

Submitted by the Select Board.

Revolving Fund	Authorized to Spend	Use of Funds	Revenue Source	FY25 Limit
Recreation Programs	Recreation Commission	Activities	Fees Rec'd	\$35,000
Council on Aging Breakfast & Lunch Program	Council on Aging Director	Senior Meals	Fees Rec'd	\$5,000
Recycling Fund	Board of Health	Recycling Costs	Fee's Received	\$60,000
Tax Title Revolving	Town Treasurer/Collector	Tax Title Expenses	Tax Title Fees	\$10,000

MOTION: I Move the Town vote to fix the maximum amount that may be spent during Fiscal Year 2025 for the revolving funds as set forth in Article 10.

MOTION BY: ALEX MEISNER SECOND BY DAN CAMPBELL

[VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY] **PASSED MAJORITY**

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums for A GRANT MATCH FUND, or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board.

MOTION: I move the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$30,000 to create a Grant Match Fund.

MOTION BY: BARBARA JACQUE SECOND BY DAN CAMPBELL

[VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY] PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums, for ENERGY COMMITTEE PROJECTS, or take any other action relative thereon or in relation thereto.

Submitted by the Energy Committee

MOTION: I move the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$33,000 to pay for Energy Committee projects.

MOTION BY: JIM VANNETTA, Energy Committee SECOND BY BARBARA JACQUE

[VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY] PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums, for a POLICE CRUISER, RADIO AND RELATED EQUIPMENT or take any other action relative thereon or in relation thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board.

MOTION: I move the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash up to \$113, 572 to purchase a police cruiser, radios and other related equipment.

MOTION BY: BERNARD BOUDREAU SECOND BY ALEX MEISNER

[VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY] PASSED MAJORITY

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums to purchase a new FIRE DEPARTMENT RESCUE TRUCK, or take any other action relative thereon or in relation thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board.

MOTION: I move the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$225,000 to pay for a Rescue Truck for the Fire Department.

MOTION BY SARAH KERNS SECOND BY ALEX MEISNER TO AMEND ARTICLE 14 "NEW FIRE TRUCK CHANGED TO NEW OR USED RESCUE TRUCK FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT"

MOTION TO AMEND ARTICLE 14 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION AS AMENDED To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums to purchase a NEW OR USED RESCUE TRUCK FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT, or take any other action relative thereon or in relation thereto.

MOTION BY: SARAH KERNS SECOND BY ALEX MEISNER

[VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY] PASSED MAJORITY

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums for a HIGHWAY TRUCK AND RELATED EQUIPMENT, or take any other action relative thereon or in relation thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board.

MOTION: I move the Town vote to Raise and Appropriate the sum of \$400,000 to purchase a highway truck and related equipment.

MOTION BY: ALEXANDER MEISNER SECOND BY BERNARD BOUDREAU

[VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY] PASSED MAJORITY

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums for HIGHWAY RADIO EQUIPMENT, or take any other action relative thereon or in relation thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board.

MOTION: I move the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash \$35,000 to purchase highway radio equipment.

MOTION BY: BARBARA JACQUE SECOND BY DAN CAMPBELL

[VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY] PASSED MAJORITY

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to deposit into the Town's OPEB Trust Fund or take any other action relative thereon or in relation thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board.

MOTION: I move the Town transfer from free cash the sum of \$100,000 to deposit into the Town's OPEB Trust Fund.

MOTION BY: HEATH CUMMINGS SECOND BY DAN CAMPBELL

[VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY] PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money for the EMERGENCY SERVICES FACILITY ACCOUNT, or take any other action relative thereon or in relation thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board.

MOTION: I move the Town transfer from free cash the sum of \$300,000 and Raise and Appropriate the sum of \$200,000 for the Emergency Services Facility Account.

MOTION BY: BARBARA JACQUE SECOND BY DAN CAMPBELL

[VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY] PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023 to rescind the vote taken under Article 19 of the May 1, 2023 Annual Town Meeting creating a SPECIAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT STABILIZATION FUND and dedicating 100% of the opioid litigation settlement funds received by the Town to such fund pursuant to G.L. c. 40, §5B; and further to transfer the sum of \$22,650.94, as well as any other payments received prior to this vote, from the Special Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund to a special revenue fund approved by the Director of Accounts pursuant to said Chapter 77, and for such funds henceforth received to be placed in such special revenue fund, to be expended without further appropriation for all of the purposes allowed by law, including those outlined in applicable opioid litigation settlement documents; or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board.

MOTION: I move the Town will vote in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023 to rescind the vote taken under Article 19 of the May 1, 2023 Annual Town Meeting creating a Special Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund and dedicating 100% of the opioid litigation settlement funds received by the Town to such fund pursuant to G.L. c. 40, §5B; and further to transfer the sum of \$22,650.94, as well as any other payments received prior to this vote, from the Special Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund to a special revenue fund approved by the Director of Accounts pursuant to said Chapter 77, and for such funds henceforth received to be placed in such special revenue fund, to be expended without further appropriation for all of the purposes allowed by law, including those outlined in applicable opioid litigation settlement documents.

MOTION BY: ALEXANDER MEISNER SECOND BY DAN CAMPBELL

[VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY] PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will, with the recommendation of the Community Preservation Commission, reserve from the FY 2025 Community Preservation Fund the following estimated amounts to be set aside from estimated annual revenue: the sum of 5% (\$1,400) for administrative expenses; 10% (\$2,800) for open space purposes; 10% (\$2,800) for historic preservation; 10% (\$2,800) for affordable housing; and the remaining 65% (\$18,200) to the FY 2025 Community Preservation Fund budgeted reserve; or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

MOTION: I move the Town reserve from the FY 2025 Community Preservation Fund the following estimated amounts be set aside from estimated annual revenue: the sum of 5% (\$1,400) for administrative expenses; 10% (\$2,800) for open space purposes; 10% (\$2,800) for historic preservation; 10% (\$2,800) for affordable housing; and the remaining 65% (\$18,200) to the FY 2025 Community Preservation Fund budgeted reserve.

MOTION BY: LARA DUBIN SECOND BY DAN CAMPBELL

[VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY] PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will, with the recommendation of the Community Preservation Commission, vote to appropriate for open space/recreational preservation purposes the sum of \$6,000 from the Community Preservation Fund balance for Open Space/Recreation and \$9,000 from the Community Preservation Fund for Undesignated Funds for a total of \$15,000 to go towards the building of a pavilion on the Northfield Elementary School playground, or take any action there on or in relation thereto.

MOTION: I move that the Town appropriate for open space/recreational preservation purposes the sum of \$6,000 from the Community Preservation Fund balance for Open Space/Recreation and \$9,000 from the Community Preservation Fund for Undesignated Funds for a total of \$15,000 to go towards the building of a pavilion on the Northfield Elementary School playground.

MOTION BY: LARA DUBIN SECOND BY TONY MATTEO

[VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY] **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will, with the recommendation of the Community Preservation Commission, vote to appropriate for historical preservation purposes the sum of \$2,000 from the Community Preservation Fund balance for Historical Preservation and \$3,000 from the Community Preservation Fund for Undesignated Funds for a total of \$5,000 to purchase shelving and digitization equipment for the Northfield Historical Society, or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

MOTION: I move that the Town appropriate for historical preservation purposes the sum of \$2,000 from the Community Preservation Fund balance for Historical Preservation and \$3,000 from the Community Preservation Fund for Undesignated Funds for a total of \$5,000 to purchase shelving and digitization equipment for the Northfield Historical Society.

MOTION BY: LARA DUBIN SECOND BY TONY MATTEO

[VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY] **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will, with the recommendation of the Community Preservation Commission, vote to appropriate for historical preservation purposes the sum of \$21,523 from the Community Preservation Fund balance for Undesignated Funds for restoration of the original painting on the walls of the Dickinson Memorial Library Reading Room, or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

MOTION: I move that the Town appropriate for historical preservation purposes the sum of \$21,523 from the Community Preservation Fund balance for Undesignated Funds for restoration of the original painting on the walls of the Dickinson Memorial Library Reading Room.

MOTION BY: LARA DUBIN SECOND BY ALEX MEISNER

[VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY] **PASSED MAJORITY**

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will, with the recommendation of the Community Preservation Commission, vote to appropriate for historical preservation purposes the sum of \$90,000 from the Community Preservation Fund balance for Undesignated Funds for the repair and restoration of the exterior of the building and of the first floor hallway of Northfield Dickerson Hall (currently serving as Northfield VFW post 9874), or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

MOTION: I move that the Town appropriate for historical preservation purposes the sum of \$90,000 from the Community Preservation Fund balance for Undesignated Funds for the repair and restoration of the exterior of the building and of the first floor hallway of Northfield Dickerson Hall (currently serving as Northfield VFW post 9874).

MOTION BY: LARA DUBIN SECOND BY TONY MATTEO

[VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY] **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for special legislation to allow Floyd Dunnell III, the Town of Northfield Fire Chief, notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the contrary, to serve in such position until August 13, 2025 (age 72 years) or until the date of his retirement or non- reappointment, whichever occurs first; provided, however, that he is mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of his office. Provided further, that the Town will, at its own expense, require that Chief Dunnell be examined by an impartial physician designated by the Town to determine such capability; and provided further, that no deductions from the regular compensation of Floyd Dunnell III shall be made under Chapter 32 of the General Laws for retirement or pension purposes. Provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical and editorial changes of form only to the bill unless the Select Board approve amendments to the bill prior to enactment by the General Court, and to authorize the Select Board to approves such amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition, or take any other action relative thereon or in relation thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board.

MOTION: I move that the Town grant the Select Board the right to petition the General Court for special legislation to allow Floyd Dunnell III to serve as Fire Chief until August 13, 2025 (age 72 years) or until the date of his retirement or non-reappointment, whichever occurs first; provided, however, that he is mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of his office. Provided further, that the Town will, at its own expense, require that Chief Dunnell be examined by an impartial physician designated by the Town to determine such capability; and provided further, that no deductions from the regular compensation of Floyd Dunnell III shall be made under Chapter 32 of the General Laws for retirement or pension purposes. Provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical and editorial changes of form only to the bill unless the Select Board approves such amendments to the bill prior to enactment by the General Court, and to authorize the Select Board to approve such amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition.

MOTION BY: SARAH KERNS SECOND BY DAN CAMPBELL

[VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY] **PASSED MAJORITY**

NOTE: Moderator Nathan Letoile Recused Himself as Moderator for Articles 26 And 27 to avoid appearance of Conflict Of Interest. Nomination for Alex Meisner as Temporary Moderator made by Select Board Sarah Kerns Second by Dan Campbell. Select Board Vice Chair Bernard Boudreau cast one vote for Alex Meisner Town Clerk Amanda Lynch declared Alex Meisner elected Temporary Moderator and Administered Oath Of Office

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Northfield ZONING BYLAWS by amending the Definitional Section of the Zoning Bylaw and adding a new Section as follows:

Battery energy storage facility: A series of containers or cabinets containing batteries and related equipment designed to store electrical energy for periodic resale to the wholesale energy market and/or other customers on the electrical grid. This includes all accessory equipment necessary for energy storage, including, but not limited to, inverters, transformers, cooling equipment, switching gear, metering equipment, transmission tie-lines, other power interconnection facilities and/or a project substation.

And by inserting the following new section as 200-10.4 Temporary Moratorium:

200-10.4 Temporary Moratorium

The use of independent Battery Energy Storage Systems to store energy produced by solar facilities and non-solar facilities, has recently expanded beyond expectations, and the Town's current bylaw contains no regulation

of such facilities when those facilities are not accessory to a permitted solar photovoltaic generating installation. These systems raise significant and evolving environmental and planning issues for the Town, thereby creating an urgent need to adopt regulation addressing this use. In addition, the law concerning the ability of municipalities to regulate battery energy storage systems serving solar energy facilities is rapidly evolving. The Town needs time to consider and study the future implications and impact of these facilities upon the Town as a whole, and on the Town's current and future planning goals. Imposition of a temporary moratorium on Battery Energy Storage Systems as a principal use will allow sufficient time to assess these issues and amend the Zoning Bylaw to address the impact of these facilities on the Town's environmental resources and its planning goals.

A. Temporary Moratorium.

For the reasons set forth above and notwithstanding any other provision of the Zoning Bylaw to the contrary, the Town hereby adopts a temporary moratorium on the use of land or structures for Battery Energy Storage Systems as a principal use. The moratorium shall be in effect through August, 2025 or the date on which the Town adopts amendments to the Zoning Bylaw concerning Battery Energy Storage Systems as a principal use, whichever occurs earlier. During the moratorium period, the Town shall undertake a planning process to study, review, analyze and address what revisions to the Zoning Bylaw relative to Battery Energy Storage Systems as a principal use are needed or desirable to allow for and regulate such use consistent with protecting the Town's environmental resources and furthering its planning goals.

MOTION BY JOE GRAVELINE TO AMEND ARTICLE 26 “STRIKE THE WORD ‘CONTAINERS’ AND REPLACE IT WITH ‘STRUCTURES’; STRIKE THE WORD ‘CABINETS’ AND REPLACE IT WITH THE WORD BUILDINGS, STRIKE THE WORD ‘CONTAINING’ AND REPLACE IT WITH THE WORD ‘HOUSING’ ON LINE THREE OF THE ARTICLE AFTER THE PHRASE, WHOLESALE ENERGY MARKET. STRIKE THE ‘AND/OR OTHER CUSTOMERS ON THE ELECTRICAL GRID’. ON LINE FIVE, STRIKE ‘TRANSMISSION TIE LINES, OTHER POWER INTERCONNECTION FACILITIES AND/OR A PROJECT SUBSTATION’ ALSO TO ADD THE WORDS “HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL” IN THE LAST LINES OF SECTION 200-10.4 AND A. TEMPORARY MORATORIUM, BETWEEN THE WORDS “ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCES” IN BOTH PLACES.

MOTION TO AMEND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION AS AMENDED: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Northfield ZONING BYLAWS by amending the Definitional Section of the Zoning Bylaw and adding a new Section as follows:

Battery energy storage facility: A series of STRUCTURES or BUILDINGS HOUSING batteries and related equipment designed to store electrical energy for periodic resale to the wholesale energy market. This includes all accessory equipment necessary for energy storage, including, but not limited to, inverters, transformers, cooling equipment, switching gear, metering equipment,

And by inserting the following new section as 200-10.4 Temporary Moratorium:

200-10.4 Temporary Moratorium

The use of independent Battery Energy Storage Systems to store energy produced by solar facilities and non-solar facilities, has recently expanded beyond expectations, and the Town's current bylaw contains no regulation of such facilities when those facilities are not accessory to a permitted solar photovoltaic generating installation. These systems raise significant and evolving environmental and planning issues for the Town, thereby creating an urgent need to adopt regulation addressing this use. In addition, the law concerning the ability of municipalities to regulate battery energy storage systems serving solar energy facilities is rapidly evolving. The Town needs time to consider and study the future implications and impact of these facilities upon the Town as a whole, and on the Town's current and future planning goals. Imposition of a temporary moratorium on Battery Energy Storage Systems as a principal use will allow sufficient time to assess these issues and amend the

Zoning Bylaw to address the impact of these facilities on the Town's environmental, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL resources and its planning goals.

A. Temporary Moratorium.

For the reasons set forth above and notwithstanding any other provision of the Zoning Bylaw to the contrary, the Town hereby adopts a temporary moratorium on the use of land or structures for Battery Energy Storage Systems as a principal use. The moratorium shall be in effect through August, 2025 or the date on which the Town adopts amendments to the Zoning Bylaw concerning Battery Energy Storage Systems as a principal use, whichever occurs earlier. During the moratorium period, the Town shall undertake a planning process to study, review, analyze and address what revisions to the Zoning Bylaw relative to Battery Energy Storage Systems as a principal use are needed or desirable to allow for and regulate such use consistent with protecting the Town's environmental, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL resources and furthering its planning goals.

MOTION BY: MARGARET REARDON SECOND BY DAN CAMPBELL

MARGARET REARDON PLANNING BOARD REPORT: Planning Board Public Hearing held on May 2, 2024. Planning Board voted unanimously in favor to recommend this article to Town Meeting.

[VOTE REQUIRED: TWO-THIRDS] **PASSED TWO-THIRDS (VOTE: 116 YES, 7 NO)**

ARTICLE 27: SOLAR PETITION [CITIZEN'S PETITION]

To see if the town will vote to amend the town ZONING BYLAWS by adding a new section, 9.9, A, B and C, Temporary Moratorium on the Permitting and Construction of Large-Scale Industrial Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Systems including so called 'Dual-Use/Agri-Voltaics' that would provide as follows;

- A) Purpose. The Town of Northfield contains extensive open space, and rural undeveloped areas. Northfield has chosen to be a Right to Farm Community and as such has cherished its prime agricultural land. The Town of Northfield and its residents are being approached by developers to site industrial scale solar development residential agricultural neighborhoods outside of our Solar Overlay District. There is an identifiable community need to establish thoughtful, appropriate zoning regulations to ensure that Industrial Scale Solar uses and development will be consistent with the Town's Master Plan, Open Space and Recreation Plan and long-term planning interests therefore it is crucial that the Town establish a temporary moratorium on the granting of Permits and use of land for the construction of Large-Scale Industrial Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Systems and related structures. The average size of a solar system to provide electricity for residential use in Massachusetts is 6.5 kW or up to 40kW for a barn or sugarhouse and this moratorium relates only to systems greater than 200% (up to 80Kw) of the documented average use (i.e. power generation rather than accessory to a home or other use.)
- B) Definitions. LARGE-SCALE INDUSTRIAL GROUND-MOUNTED SOLAR shall mean a solar photovoltaic system producing more than 200% of the documented average annual demand for all uses on a property that is structurally mounted on the ground and is not building mounted, including associated infrastructure as well as energy capturing storage systems called Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).
- C) Moratorium. No Special Permits or Building Permits shall be issued for the construction of Large Scale Industrial Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Systems including 'DualUse/Agri-Voltaics' until the date of August 30, 2025. Solar voltaic projects exempt from this moratorium shall include any project that is allowed by right in the existing solar overlay district; or solar projects for farms, the farming activities and the attached residential structures, commercial properties, businesses, municipal properties, residential properties, churches and nonprofits equal to or less than 200% of the documented average annual use,

provided that no ground mounted solar project be sited in lands protected by the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, or located in BioMap 3 Critical Natural Landscape, Core Habitat, Important Habitat, or Priority Habitat, or protected open space, or Native American cultural areas as determined by Massachusetts' Indigenous people.

Summary: The purpose of this temporary moratorium is to allow sufficient time to engage in a planning process to address the new reality of the impact of Large-Scale Industrial Ground- Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Projects and associated structures on the town, and to enact bylaws in a matter consistent with sound land-use planning goals and objectives as informed by our Master Plan our Open Space and Recreation Plan.

MOTION TO AMEND ARTICLE 27 BY JOE GRAVELINE "IN SECTION A INSERT THE WORD 'IN' TO READ 'INDUSTRIAL SCALE SOLAR DEVELOPMENT IN RESIDENTIAL AGRICULTURAL NEIGHBORHOODS'. IN SECTION C STRIKE THE WORD 'DETERMINED' AND REPLACE IT WITH THE WORD 'INSTRUCTED'; STRIKE THE WORDS 'MASSACHUSETTS INDIGINOUS PEOPLE' AND REPLACE WITH 'THE MARCH 21,2024 ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIRECTIVE'. UNDER SECTION SUMMARY ADD THE WORD 'AND' TO READ 'AS INFORMED BY OUR MASTER PLAN AND OUR OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN'"

MOTION TO AMEND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION AS AMENDED To see if the town will vote to amend the town ZONING BYLAWS by adding a new section, 9.9, A, B and C, Temporary Moratorium on the Permitting and Construction of Large-Scale Industrial Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Systems including so called 'Dual-Use/Agri-Voltaics' that would provide as follows;

- A) Purpose. The Town of Northfield contains extensive open space, and rural undeveloped areas. Northfield has chosen to be a Right to Farm Community and as such has cherished its prime agricultural land. The Town of Northfield and its residents are being approached by developers to site industrial scale solar development IN residential agricultural neighborhoods outside of our Solar Overlay District. There is an identifiable community need to establish thoughtful, appropriate zoning regulations to ensure that Industrial Scale Solar uses and development will be consistent with the Town's Master Plan, Open Space and Recreation Plan and long-term planning interests therefore it is crucial that the Town establish a temporary moratorium on the granting of Permits and use of land for the construction of Large-Scale Industrial Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Systems and related structures. The average size of a solar system to provide electricity for residential use in Massachusetts is 6.5 kW or up to 40kW for a barn or sugarhouse and this moratorium relates only to systems greater than 200% (up to 80Kw) of the documented average use (i.e. power generation rather than accessory to a home or other use.)***
- B) Definitions. LARGE-SCALE INDUSTRIAL GROUND-MOUNTED SOLAR shall mean a solar photovoltaic system producing more than 200% of the documented average annual demand for all uses on a property that is structurally mounted on the ground and is not building mounted, including associated infrastructure as well as energy capturing storage systems called Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).***
- C) Moratorium. No Special Permits or Building Permits shall be issued for the construction of Large Scale Industrial Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Systems including 'DualUse/Agri-Voltaics' until the date of August 30, 2025. Solar voltaic projects exempt from this moratorium shall include any project that is allowed by right in the existing solar overlay district; or solar projects for farms, the farming activities and the attached residential structures, commercial properties, businesses, municipal properties, residential properties, churches and nonprofits equal to or less than 200% of the documented average annual use, provided that no ground mounted solar project be sited in lands protected by the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, or located in BioMap 3 Critical Natural Landscape, Core Habitat, Important***

Habitat, or Priority Habitat, or protected open space, or Native American cultural areas as INSTRUCTED by THE MARCH 21, 2024 ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIRECTIVE.

Summary: The purpose of this temporary moratorium is to allow sufficient time to engage in a planning process to address the new reality of the impact of Large-Scale Industrial Ground- Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Projects and associated structures on the town, and to enact bylaws in a matter consistent with sound land-use planning goals and objectives as informed by our Master Plan and our Open Space and Recreation Plan.

MOTION BY: PETITIONER JOHN BUXTON SECOND BY JOE GRAVELINE
MARGARET REARDON PLANNING BOARD REPORT: Planning Board Public Hearing held on May 2, 2024. Planning Board voted unanimously in favor to recommend this article to Town Meeting.

[VOTE REQUIRED: TWO-THIRDS] **PASSED TWO THIRDS (VOTE: 81 YES, 17 NO)**

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will adopt the resolution outlined in Appendix 2 of this document, to wit.
WHEREAS the efficient administration of Town affairs is achieved through the largely voluntary assumption of official responsibilities by elected or appointed officers combined with the loyal and faithful service of salaried employees, and,

WHEREAS certain persons have during the calendar year of 2023 concluded periods of service during which they have made substantial contributions to the public weal,

BE IT RESOLVED that the names and nature of service by the following named persons be herewith noticed and recorded in the minutes of this Annual Town Meeting of 2024 in grateful recognition of their work on behalf of the Town. Submitted by the Select Board.

MOTION: I move the Town adopt the resolution outlined in Appendix 2 of the Town Meeting Warrant document.

MOTION BY: BARBARA JACQUE SECOND BY DAN CAMPBELL
[VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY] **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The Select Board recommends this Article.

APPENDIX 2: A Resolution of Gratitude
TOWNSPEOPLE OF NORTHFIELD MAY 2024

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the efficient administration of Town affairs is achieved through the largely voluntary assumption of official responsibilities by elected or appointed officers combined with the loyal and faithful service of salaried employees, and,

WHEREAS certain persons have during the calendar year of 2023 concluded periods of service during which they have made substantial contributions to the public weal,

BE IT RESOLVED that the names and nature of service by the following named persons be herewith noticed and recorded in the minutes of this Annual Town Meeting of 2023 in grateful recognition of their work on behalf of the Town:

350 th Anniversary Committee	Joan Stoia, Steve Stoia, Bruce Kahn, Rhoda Yucavitch, Lindsay McCarthy, Magda Ponce Castro, Alex Meisner, Martha Morse, Pat Shearer, Stacy Bond, Mary King
Center/Campus Community Collaborative Committee	Steve Stoia, Robin McKeon, Erin Jaworski, Patter Field, Mary Bowen, Heath Cummings, Homer Stavely, Alice Lord
Community Preservation Commission	Deb Lanou, Robin Conley, Mary King
Conservation Commission	Robin Conley
Council on Aging	Judie Tate, Deb Weisen Kelly
Cultural Council	Linda Jacque
Election Officer	Al Stone, Patricia Stone, Pam Veith
EMS	Jeremy O'Connell
Fire Department	David Quinn Jr
Grant Development Director	Mallory Sullivan
Historical Commission	Lisa McLoughlin, Joan Stoia
Highway Department	Rob Hunter, Austin Jenkins, Josh Neil
Open Space Committee	Julia Blyth, Robin Conley, Matt DiLuzio, Mike Barry
Pioneer Valley Regional School Committee	Stephanie Winslow
Planning Board	Homer Stavely
Police	Christopher Maselli, Chris Miner, Alex Pirozhkov, Jeremy Lawler, Josh Barber, Matthew Ziomek, Meghan Gallo, Michael Kelly, Sean Connor
Recreation Commission	Bob Emberly
Select Board	Mary Bowen
Senior Center	Linda Keech
Stewardship Advisory Committee	Joanne McGee

TOWNSPEOPLE OF NORTHFIELD MAY, 2024

APPENDIX 3: Finance Committee Recommended Sources of Funds

#	Purpose	Department	Request	Finance Committee Recommend	Raise & App (before state/local receipts)	Free Cash	Enterprise	Other Available Funds	Community Preserv. Funds
1	Waive Reading	Select Board							
2	Accept Reports	Select Board							
3	Apply and Accept Grants	Select Board							
4	Omnibus	Finance Committee	4,444,039	4,444,039	4,444,039				
5	Education	Finance Committee	5,506,554	5,506,554	5,506,554				
6	PVRSD - NES	Select Board	55,000	55,000		55,000			
7	EMS Budget	EMS	822,067	822,067		25,000	797,067		
8	Sewer Enterprise Fund	Sewer Commission	538,886	538,886			538,886		
9	Sewer Capital - Remote Access	Sewer Commission	20,000	20,000			20,000		
10	Revolving Funds	Select Board							
11	Grant Match	Select Board	30,000	30,000		30,000			
12	Energy Projects	Energy Committee	33,000	33,000		33,000			
13	Police Dept Equipment	Police Department	113,572	113,572		113,572			
14	Fire Department Truck	Fire Department	225,000	225,000		225,000			
15	Highway Truck	Highway Depart	400,000	400,000	400,000				
16	Highway Radio Equipment	Highway Depart	35,000	35,000		35,000			
17	OPEB	Select Board	100,000	100,000		100,000			
18	Emergency Svcs Bldg	Select Board	500,000	500,000	200,000	300,000			
19	Opiod Account	Select Board							
20	CPA - Annual Funds	CPC	28,000	28,000					28,000
21	CPA - NES Pavillion	CPC	15,000	15,000					15,000
22	CPA - Historical Society	CPC	5,000	5,000					5,000
23	CPA - Library Restoration	CPC	21,523	21,523					21,523
24	CPA - Dickerson Hall/VFW	CPC	90,000	90,000					90,000
25	Fire Chief Extension	Fire Department							
26	Battery Storage Bylaw	Planning Board							
27	Solar Bylaw	Citizen Petition							
28	Resolution	Select Board							
	Total:		12,982,641	12,982,641	10,550,593	916,572	1,355,953	0	159,523

MEETING END AT 10:22 PM

ELECTION WORKERS SANDRA CAMPBELL, PAM ELDRIDGE, TORI LUKSHA, AND SUSAN SECCO