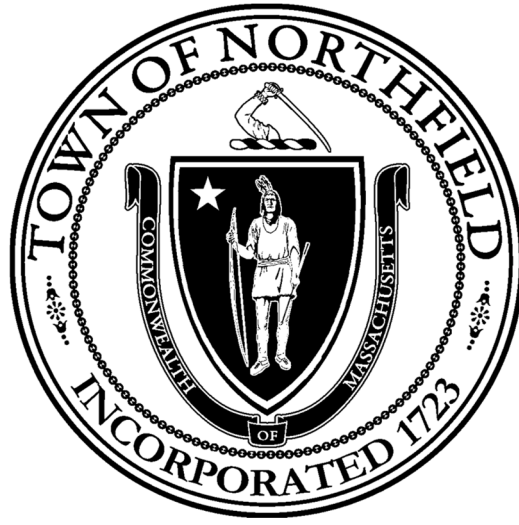


TOWN OF NORTHFIELD



Transcript of Articles and Motions in the Warrant for the

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Monday, May 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

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TOWN OF NORTHFIELD



WARRANT

Annual Town Meeting

Monday, May 6, 2024

At 7:00 o'clock in the evening at Pioneer Valley Regional School
97 F. Sumner Turner Drive

Franklin, ss

To any of the Constables of the Town of Northfield, in said County of Franklin, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Northfield, who being qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs, to meet at Pioneer Valley Regional School, 97 F. Sumner Turner Drive, in said Northfield, on Monday, the sixth day of May, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.; then and there to act upon the enclosed articles, to wit:

In case all articles in the foregoing Warrant shall not be acted upon at the Meeting called for on Monday, May 6, 2024, to meet in Adjourned Sessions at such time and place as the meeting shall determine.

This site is accessible to the handicapped and designated parking is provided. If requested, at least one week before the meeting, warrants with large print can be available. Please call the Town Clerk's office at 413-498-2901 x112.

If you need reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the meeting, contact the ADA Coordinator Andrea Llamas at Northfield Town Hall, 69 Main Street, Northfield, 413-498-2901 x115 (allmas@northfieldma.gov), in advance of the meeting. While the municipality will do its best to accommodate you, certain accommodations require the hiring of outside contractors who may not be available if requested immediately before the meeting.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO THE CITIZENS OF NORTHFIELD

The Finance Committee's role is to make recommendations to our voters on items coming before the Town Meeting for action. The proposed budget we are recommending is intended to fund sufficiently the current level of services and maintain the Town's financial health. We arrived at these recommendations following interviews with our larger departments. The Finance Committee meets almost weekly from January through March to hear explanation for the various department and board requests regarding the Town's Operating Budget and Special Articles.

Requests were evaluated with supporting information provided by Town Departments, Boards, Committees and Commissions. The Finance Committee recommends and supports these FY25 budget requests. We are recommending a Cost-of-living (COLA) increase of 3% for employees and the Boards receiving stipends. This percentage is based on the calendar year 2024 Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment of 3.2%.

A prime concern of the Finance Committee is always balancing the needs of our various Departments, Boards, Committees and Commissions and our services to town residents with the effect on our Tax Rate. We also consider the working conditions for our employees, including maintenance of the equipment that they use, buildings they work in as well as safety on the job.

This year we recommend and support the assessments of the Pioneer Valley Regional School District and the Franklin County Technical School. Northfield is a member of both Districts enabling our students to have choices supporting their education and career plans. Northfield is one of three towns in the Pioneer Valley Regional School District and one of 19 members of the Technical School District. Northfield is represented by 3 of our citizens on the PVRSD School Committee and 1 citizen on the Franklin County Technical School Committee.

We wish to thank all our staff, employees, volunteers, and elected officials for their consideration of the effect of their requests on our Taxpayers.

The Northfield Finance
Committee:

Dan Campbell, Chairman
Bernhard Porada, Vice Chairman

Sue Kaczenski
Tony Matteo

David McCarthy
Gail Weiss

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET SUMMARY

	FY2024	FY2025 REQUESTED	FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED FY2025
EXPENDITURES			
Omnibus	4,120,876	4,444,039	4,444,039
Schools	5,429,452	5,506,554	5,506,554
Special Articles-General Fund	0	600,000	600,000
Special Articles-Free Cash	394,980	916,572	916,572
Special Articles-Other Funds	0	0	0
Special Articles-Enterprise Funds	1,123,060	1,355,953	1,355,953
Special Articles-CPA Funds	7,825	131,523	131,523
Reserved for CPA Fund	28,000	28,000	28,000
Cherry Sheet Charges	6,115	9,025	9,025
Cherry Sheet Offsets	7,421	7,761	7,761
Overlay	100,000	100,000	100,000
AMOUNT TO BE APPROPRIATED	11,217,729	13,099,427	13,099,427
REVENUES			
Cherry Sheet Receipts	579,669	578,442	578,442
Local Est Receipts	622,000	600,000	600,000
Estimated Revenue-CPA	28,000	28,000	28,000
Certified Enterprise Sewer (\$284,887)	150,000	20,000	20,000
Certified Enterprise EMS (\$323,261)	15,000	0	0
Available Free Cash General Fund (\$928,634)	394,980	916,572	916,572
Stabilization (Gen: \$545,106.65) (Cap: \$686,682.42)	0	0	0
Enterprise Funds (Accounts)	917,060	1,335,953	1,335,953
Enterprise Fund-Transfer to General for Indirect	41,000	55,000	55,000
CPA Funds-Approp Fund Bals	7,825	131,523	131,523
Overlay	0	0	0
Other Avail Funds (ATM articles)	0	0	0
TOTAL EST RECEIPTS & AVAILABLE FUNDS	2,755,534	3,665,490	3,665,490
AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION	8,692,734	9,433,937	9,433,937
MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE LEVY 2 1/2	10,256,565	10,652,811	10,652,811
AMT UNDER MAXIMUM LEVY	(1,563,831)	(1,218,874)	(1,218,874)
OVERRIDE OR EXCLUSIONS REQUIRED	0	0	0
ESTIMATED TAX RATE	\$13.58	\$14.22	\$14.22
ESTIMATED TAX RATE AT LEVY LIMIT	\$16.08	\$16.05	\$16.05

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Appropriation: An authorization to make expenditures and to incur obligations for specific purposes. An appropriation is granted by Town Meeting and is usually limited in time and amount as to when it may be expended. Any part of the general appropriation not spent or encumbered by June 30 automatically reverts to surplus, which may become Free Cash. A specific 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: A valuation set upon real or personal property by the Board of Assessors as a basis for levying taxes.

Budget: A plan of financial operation consisting of an estimate of proposed expenditures for a given period and the means of financing them. The budget is voted in the spring at Town Meeting for the fiscal year that begins the following July 1st.

Capital Budget: A plan of proposed capital outlays and the means of financing them for the current year.

Cherry Sheet: An annual statement received from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue detailing estimated payments to the town for the next fiscal year and the estimated state and county government charges payable by the town. The Assessors in setting the tax rate use these amounts. The actual receipts and charges may vary from the estimates.

Community Preservation Act (CPA): The Town adopted the Community Preservation Act (CPA) in 2002. This Act allows the town to collect up to a 3% surcharge (Northfield has voted only 0.5%) on property tax bills (the funds can be matched up to 100% by the state when funds are available), which creates the Community Preservation Fund, to use for Community Preservation purposes. Each year, the town must appropriate, or reserve (but not necessarily spend), 10% of the funds for each of the three Community Preservation purposes: Open Space, Historic Resources, and Community Housing. The remaining 70% of the funds can be appropriated or reserved used for any of the three purposes and for Recreation and for administration.

Debt Service: Payment of interest and repayment of principal to holders of the Town's debt instruments.

Fiscal Year: A 12-month period, commencing July 1 and ending June 30, to which the annual budget applies. Fiscal years are often denoted FYXX with the last two numbers representing the calendar year in which it ends, for example FY18 is the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018.

Free Cash: Free cash is the portion of unreserved fund balance available for appropriation. It is not cash but rather is approximately the total of cash and receivables fewer current liabilities and earmarked reserves reduced also by reserves for uncollected taxes. This is also referred to as "available cash". The amount is certified annually by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.

General Fund: The major town owned fund which is created with town receipts and which is charged with expenditures payable from revenues.

Grant: A contribution of assets by one governmental unit or other organization to another. Typically, these contributions are made to local governments from the state and federal governments. Grants are usually made for specific purposes.

Line-Item Budget: A format of budgeting that organizes costs by type of expenditure such as expenses, equipment, and salaries.

Overlay: The amount set aside to allow for uncollected property taxes. An amount for overlay is added to the appropriations and other charges. Overlay Surplus – see below.

Overlay Surplus: The unused amount of the overlay for prior years, which may be transferred, by vote of the Town, to the reserve account or used for extraordinary items.

Property Tax Levy: The amount produced by multiplying the assessed valuation of property by the tax rate. The tax rate is expressed “per thousand dollars” of assessed valuation.

Reserve Fund: Money set aside by Town Meeting to be allocated by the Finance Committee for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures.

Stabilization Fund: A special reserve funded by Town Meeting for future expenditures.

Terms associated with Proposition 2½:

Debt or Capital Exclusion: The Town can assess taxes in excess of the levy limit by voting a debt exclusion or capital outlay exclusion. This amount does not become a permanent part of the levy limit base, but does allow the Town to assess taxes for a specific period of time in excess of the limit for payment of debt service costs or for payment of capital expenditures.

Excess Levy Capacity: The difference between the Town's tax levy limit and its actual tax levy for the current year. It is the additional tax levy that could be raised without asking for an override.

New Growth: The amount of property tax revenue that the Town can add to its allowable tax levy as a result of new construction, alterations, subdivisions or change of use which increases the value of a parcel of land by more than certain amounts.

Override: An amount, voted by the Town, which is permanently added to the levy limit. A majority vote of the Selectmen allows an override question to be put on the ballot. Override questions must be presented in dollar terms and must specify the purpose of the override. Overrides require a majority vote of approval by the Town.

Tax Levy Limit: The maximum amount of the tax levy for a period under the restrictions of Proposition 2½. It is calculated as the prior year limit plus new growth plus 2.5% of the prior year levy limit.

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TOWN OF NORTHFIELD



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

WARRANT FOR 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.

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.

Submitted by the Select Board.

MOTION: I move the Town waive the reading of the Warrant and the Notice to the Constables and act on the motions of the following articles.

MOTION BY: BERNARD BOUDREAU

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY

NOTES: This article removes the requirement of the Moderator reading the entire warrant to Town Meeting at the start of the meeting.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.
The Select Board recommends this Article.

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.

Submitted by the Select Board.

MOTION: I move the Town hear and act upon the reports of the several Town Officers, Boards, Committees, Commissions and Trustees.

MOTION BY: BERNARD BOUDREAU

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY

NOTES: This article authorizes Town Meeting to proceed and act on the recommendations of the Town Officers.

The Finance Committee Recommends this Article.
The Select Board recommends this Article.

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.

Submitted by the Select Board.

MOTION: I move the Town 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.

MOTION BY: BERNARD BOUDREAU

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY

NOTES: This article authorizes the Select Board to apply for, accept, and use any funds that may be available to the Town under state or federal grants as a board.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.
The Select Board recommends this Article.

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	Finance 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

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: DANIEL CAMPBELL, Chair Finance Committee

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY

NOTE: This Article advances the Operating Budget for the Town for the Fiscal Year that begins on July 1st. The Finance Committee has balanced the available revenue with the department requests and is advancing this budget for the approval of Town Meeting.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.
The Select Board recommends this Article.

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, Chair Finance Committee

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY

NOTES: This article supports the funding for the Pioneer Valley Regional School District and the Franklin County Technical School operating and capital budgets for Fiscal Year 2025

There has been in the past, and could be this year, a student that the Town has to fund tuition and transportation for if they chose a course of study not available at Franklin County Technical School. The Town is responsible for those costs.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.
The Select Board recommends this Article.

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

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY

NOTES: This article would pay for the purchase and installation of a new freezer for the kitchen at the Northfield Elementary School. This article also provides the annual funds for on-going replacement of tile and carpet throughout the Elementary School that the Town has been voting on for many years.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.
The Select Board recommends this Article.

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
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

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY

NOTES: This Article authorizes the "Enterprise Fund" of the Emergency Medical Services Department of the Town. It permits the use of dedicated funds collected for the services provided to be spent within the fiscal year for the expenses of operating the department.

This Article includes the new request for \$25,000 from the Town to match the appropriation by the other three towns served by Northfield Ambulance.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.
The Select Board recommends this Article.

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 vote to amend the amounts listed in Article 8 as presented in the amended column of the motion warrant.

MOTION: I move that the Town raise from Departmental Receipts the adjusted sum of \$538,886 to operate the Sewer Enterprise Fund as amended.

MOTION BY: BERNARD BOUDREAU

VOTE REQUIRED: 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.

NOTES: This Article authorizes the “Enterprise Fund” for the operation of the Sewer Department. It permits the use of dedicated funds collected for the services provided to be spent within the fiscal year for the expenses of operating the sewer department.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.
The Select Board recommends this Article.

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

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY

NOTES: This Article authorizes the “Enterprise Fund” to pay for remote access to the Sewer Plant for monitoring aerators, auto operation and energy savings.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.
The Select Board recommends this Article.

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	FY24 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: ALEXANDER MEISNER

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORTIY

NOTES: This Article reauthorizes the annual spending limits on the revolving funds for the Fiscal Year 2025 beginning on July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 for these programs. These have to be authorized annually by law.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.
The Select Board recommends this Article.

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

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY

NOTES: Many state and federal agencies require a partial local match in order to be eligible for grants. These matches can be anywhere from 10% to 50% and while they require the Town to invest, they also enable the town to leverage state dollars on costly projects that would otherwise be unavailable. In 2023, five grants that Northfield received required local matching funds or evaluated applications that included matching funds more favorably.

This budget request could be used to support many different grant-funded projects, including public building and infrastructure, economic development, climate vulnerability preparedness, and recreation, among others. Grants that may be leveraged by these funds include: MassWorks Infrastructure Program, Rural and Small Town Development Fund, Site Readiness Program, Commonwealth Places Program, and others.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.
The Select Board recommends this Article.

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: JUDY WAGNER/JIM VANNETTA, Energy Committee

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY

NOTES: These funds would be used to:

- 1) To continue the Energy Committee's work to reduce energy use, help the town move toward electrification and renewable energy sources.
- 2) To get engineering and site assessment assistance to complete grants.
- 3) To more accurately price projects – need professional review and project definition.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.

The Select Board recommends this Article: Vote 4-yes, 1-abstain

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

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY

NOTES: This article is to request the purchase of a new police cruiser in line with the Northfield Police Department Capital Improvement 10 year plan. The cost of this purchase includes all the necessary equipment, including repeater/radio/computer equipment.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.

The Select Board recommends this Article.

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

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY

NOTES: This article would fund the purchase of a used Rescue Truck to replace the 1986 GMC Rescue Truck. The 37 year old truck engine is getting very tired and parts are hard to find. The truck cab is showing signs of rust and the rescue body has developed issues with the

compartment door hinges, locks and corrosion. We have pushed this request off for several years hoping for a new facility. The Rescue Truck carries extraction equipment including the “Jaws of Life”, cribbing, hazmat equipment, water/ice rescue gear, high angle ropes and hardware, a generator and lights for night operations.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.

The Select Board recommends this Article: Vote 4-yes, 1-abstain

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

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY

NOTES: This article would fund the purchase of a new dump truck to replace a 2005 truck which is almost 20 years old and starting to cost a lot of money. It has computer issues, wiring issues and the body is starting to rot out. The engine has had a lot of work done to it and needs more. It is recommended to sell this truck for maybe as much as \$35,000.

Estimate for a new 2025 Western Star 47X with All season body, snow plow equipment and extended warranty is approximately \$388,600.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.

The Select Board recommends this Article.

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

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY

NOTES: This article would fund the change of the radio equipment in the Highway Department from the low band to the new high band with repeaters.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.
The Select Board recommends this Article.

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

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY

NOTES: This Article would provide funds for the sixth year so that the Town would be contributing to the Town's Trust Fund to meet future OPEB payout obligations. The Town is about 40% funded and the goal is to be 100% funded by 2030.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.
The Select Board recommends this Article.

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

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY

NOTES: This Article would continue to put money into an account to work toward funding facilities for the Police, Fire and Ambulance Departments.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.
The Select Board recommends this Article.

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

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY

NOTES: This article would replace the Article we voted last year to preserve the OPIOD Funds in a Special Account in order to account for them and be able to spend them according to law. At the time there was no legal state funding mechanism that allowed them to be carried forward, added to and then used without further appropriation. The State passed legislation allowing this recently so now we have to update our accounting accordingly.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.

The Select Board recommends this Article.

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, Community Preservation Committee

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY

NOTES: This article is following Massachusetts General Law that requires the reserving of certain percentages of the Community Preservation Act funds for specific purposes. This is done annually at Town Meeting. "Estimated annual revenue" is the total of the amount to be collected in the upcoming fiscal year, i.e., FY 2025, under the local surcharge and the November state matching funds for the prior fiscal year.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.
The Select Board recommends this Article.

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, Community Preservation Committee

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY

NOTES: This article would provide funding for the Northfield Elementary School (NES) PTO to build a pavilion on the NES playground. Placement of the pavilion is subject to approval of the Pioneer Valley Regional School authorities. The pavilion will add a shaded gathering area for educational and recreational activities, public events, and outdoor gatherings. The Recreation Commission supports this project. The NES PTO will oversee the building and installation of the pavilion.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.
The Select Board recommends this Article.

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, Community Preservation Committee

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY

NOTES: This article would provide funding to purchase shelving to improve the storage of historical documents at the Northfield History Museum and to purchase digitization equipment to enable scanning of historical documents to the Town database. The Historical Commission supports this project.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.
The Select Board recommends this Article.

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, Community Preservation Committee

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY

NOTES: This article would provide funding for the professional conservation and repair of the library's upstairs reading room's original ombre milk paint and stencil work. The Historical Commission recognizes the historical and cultural importance of this building and supports this project. Mischa Storm is the library director and will arrange for the work to be done and will make sure that the work done will meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation which pertain to historic buildings.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.
The Select Board recommends this Article.

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, Community Preservation Committee

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY

NOTES: This article would provide funding to repair and replace the deteriorating siding, trim and windowsills of the exterior of the building and to replace the deteriorated and non-repairable plaster from the first floor stairwell. Northfield Dickerson Hall (545 Mt. Hermon Station Rd) was built in 1890 and was one of the first and remaining school buildings in Northfield. The Historical Commission recognizes the historical and cultural importance of this building and supports this project. The Northfield VFW is the caretaker of this building and will arrange for the work to be done and will make sure that the work done will meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation which pertain to historic buildings.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.
The Select Board recommends this Article.

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

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY

NOTES: This article would grant the Select Board the authority to petition the General Court for special legislation to allow Chief Dunnell the ability to continue to serve as Fire Chief for the Town of Northfield despite the age restrictions as prescribed by Massachusetts General Law requiring retirement at age 65. This is the third extension requested by the Town. The state approved a request in 2018 allowing Chief Dunnell to serve until age 70 and approved one last year for one year until age 71.

The Select Board does not recommend this article. Vote: 1-yes, 3-no, 1-abstain

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: PLANNING BOARD

VOTE REQUIRED: TWO-THIRDS

NOTES: Currently the Town has solar bylaws, but nothing that speaks to a stand alone battery storage facility. This article would place a moratorium on any permits filed for a battery storage facility until the town either passes a bylaw or it expires on August 2025.

The Select Board recommends this Article. Vote: 4-yes, 1-abstain

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 BY: PETITIONER

VOTE REQUIRED: TWO-THIRDS

The Select Board recommends this Article.

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

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY

The Select Board recommends this Article.

APPENDIX 1: Town Meeting Parliamentary Procedure

Parliamentary procedure has a long history. Originating in the early English Parliaments it came to America with the first European settlers and became uniform in 1876 when Henry Robert published his manual, known as “Robert’s Rules of Order.”

Parliamentary procedure means that everyone may be heard and to come to decisions without confusion. It means democratic rule, flexibility, the protection of rights and most importantly a fair hearing for everyone.

The basic parts of parliamentary procedure provide for the presentation of motions, the seconding or the expression of support of another’s motion, an opportunity to debate and an ability to make a decision.

There are five general types of motions:

- Main Motion: These introduce subjects for consideration.
- Subsidiary Motions: These change how the main motion is handled. (They are voted on before the main motion.)
- Privileged Motions: These concern special or important matters not related to the pending business. In general, they are considered before other types of motions.
- Incidental Motions: These are questions of procedure that arise out of other motions and they must be considered before the other motion.
- Motions that bring a question again before the assembly: These enable certain items to be reconsidered. In general, they are brought up when no business is pending.

Some questions relating to motions:

- Is it in order? Your motion must relate to the business at hand and be presented at the right time. It must not be obstructive, frivolous or against the law.
- May I interrupt the speaker? Some motions are so important that the speaker may be interrupted to make them. The original speaker regains the floor after the interruption has been attended to.
- Do I need a second? Usually, yes, A second indicates that another member would like to consider your motion and it prevents spending time on a question that interests only one person.
- Is it debatable? Parliamentary procedure guards the right to free and full debate on motions. However, some subsidiary or privileged and incidental motions are not debatable.
- Can it be amended? Striking out or inserting wording, or both can change some motions. Amendments must relate to the subject as presented in the main motion.
- What vote is needed? Most require only a majority vote (more than half the members present and voting). But, motions concerning the rights of the town meeting, borrowing, and some other miscellaneous subjects may require “super majorities” of $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{9}{10}$ ’s depending on the applicable state law.
- Can it be reconsidered? Some motions can be debated again and revoted to give members a chance to change their minds. The motion to reconsider must come from the “winning” side.

How Do I Present My Motion?

Obtain the Floor:

- Wait until the previous speaker is finished.
- Rise and address the Moderator. Say, "Mr. Moderator."
- Wait until you are recognized.
- State your name and address for the record.

Make your motion:

- Speak clearly and concisely.
- State your motion affirmatively. Say, "I move that we do..." Instead of "I move that we do not..."
- Stay on the subject and avoid personal attacks.

You wait for a second:

- Another member will say, "I second the motion."
- Or the Moderator will call for a second.
- If there is no second, your motion will not be considered. (Motions made at the direction of a board or committee (more than one person) do not require a second.)

The Moderator states your motion:

- The Moderator must say, "It is moved and seconded that we..."
- After this happens, debate or voting can occur.
- Your motion is now "assembly property," and you can't change it without consent of the body.

You expand on your motion:

- As the person who made the motion, you are allowed to speak first.
- Direct all comments to the Moderator
- Keep to the time limit for speaking.
- You may speak again after all other speakers are finished.
- You may speak a third time by a motion to suspend the rules with a 2/3 vote.

- The Moderator puts the question:
- The Moderator asks, "Are you ready for the question?"
- If there is no more debate, or if a motion to stop debate is adopted, a vote is taken.
- The Moderator announces the result.

The method of voting on a motion:

- Voice: The Moderator asks those in favor to say "aye" and those opposed to say "no." A member may move for an exact count.
- General Consent: When a motion isn't likely to be opposed, the chair says, "If there is no objection..." Members show consent by their silence. If someone says, "I object," the matter must be put to a vote.
- Show of hands: Members raise their hands to verify a voice vote, or as an alternative to it. This does not require a count. A member may move for an exact count.
- Ballot: Members write their vote on a slip of paper and is done when secrecy is desired.

More Motions:

A motion to lay on the table: This motion is used to lay something aside temporarily to take care of more urgent matters. It should not be used to prevent debate or to kill a question. Members can “take from the table” a motion for reconsideration. This must happen by the end of the town meeting.

A motion to indefinitely postpone: This is a parliamentary strategy. It allows members to dispose of a motion without making a decision for or against. This is useful in case of a badly chosen main motion for which either a “yes” or “no” vote would have undesirable consequences.

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 Stavelly, 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 Stavelly
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

