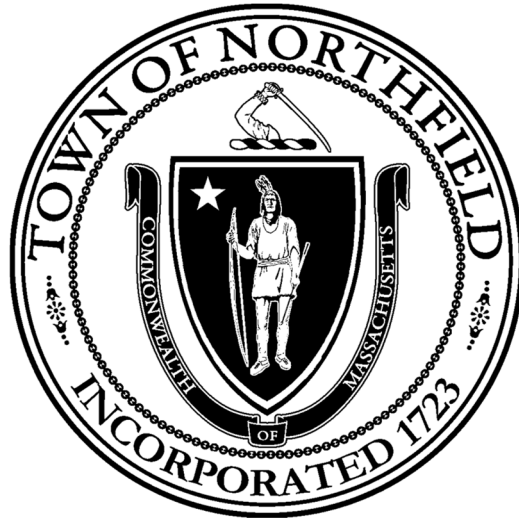


TOWN OF NORTHFIELD



Transcript of Articles in the Warrant for the

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Monday, May 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.



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TOWN OF NORTHFIELD



WARRANT

Annual Town Meeting

Monday, May 3, 2021

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 third day of May, 2021 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 3, 2021, 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 least one week before the Town Meeting at 413-498-2901 x12.

Report of the Finance Committee

To the Citizens of Northfield:

The current Fiscal Year has been challenging for everyone. However, our Town Government has navigated successfully all the challenges and now we are looking forward to FY '22. The Finance Committee's role is to advise voters of our recommendations on the Operating Budget and the Articles contained in this Warrant. Our proposed budget is intended to fund sufficiently the current level of services and maintain the Town's financial health. These recommendations have been determined following several meetings of consideration and evaluation of the requests and supporting information provided by Town Departments, Boards, Committees and Commissions.

We are supporting the budget requests for FY '22 with the exception of a portion of one request that included restoration of \$2,812. for clerical support for that one Commission. Last year the Town voted to support money in the budget to cover a Boards Clerk to serve several Boards, Committees and Commissions and we feel that is sufficient. We are recommending a Cost-of-living increase of 1.7% for our staff and employees in what we believe to be a reasonable accommodation of current costs.

A prime concern of the Finance Committee is always balancing the needs of our various Departments, Boards, Committees and Commissions with the effect on our Tax Rate. We also have to consider the working conditions for our employees including maintenance of the equipment that they use as well as their safety on the job. Supporting the requests contained in this Warrant may result in a small tax increase.

We are recommending support for our Pioneer Valley Regional School Assessment as well as support for our assessment from the Franklin County Technical School. Northfield is a member of both of these School Districts so that our students can have choices to support their career plans. The individual School Committees have the responsibility of requesting their budget needs which are reflected in our assessments. Northfield is represented by 3 of our citizens on the PVRSD School Committee and 1 citizen on the Franklin County Technical School Committee.

We are recommending the specific financial Article amounts requested in this Warrant as being essential at this time. We have not taken a position on the Local Option Meals Tax Article.

The Northfield Finance Committee:

Lois M. Stearns, Chairman;

Dan Campbell, Vice Chairman;

Sue Kaczinski

Tony Matteo

Bernie Porada

Jack Spanbauer

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET SUMMARY

	FY2021	FY2022 REQUESTED	FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED FY2022
EXPENDITURES			
Omnibus	8,342,072	8,720,408	8,717,356
Special Articles-FY21 General Fund	393,898	521,884	521,884
Special Articles-FY21-Free Cash	238,363	609,237	609,237
ATM Special Articles-Other Funds	20,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
ATM Special Articles-Enterprise Funds	676,304	701,642	701,642
ATM Special Articles-CPA Funds	15,290	32,530	32,530
Reserved for CPA Fund	25,000	25,000	25,000
Cherry Sheet Charges	8,130	7,381	7,381
Cherry Sheet Offsets	6,055	6,343	6,343
Overlay	50,000	50,000	50,000
AMOUNT TO BE APPROPRIATED	9,775,112	11,674,425	11,671,373
REVENUES			
Cherry Sheet Receipts	472,650	491,860	491,860
Local Est Receipts	607,504	400,000	400,000
Estimated Revenue-CPA	25,000	25,000	25,000
Free Cash FY21 STM articles	0	0	0
Certified Enterprise Sewer	276,781	284,219	284,219
Certified Enterprise EMS	329,660	385,423	385,423
Certified Free Cash General Fund (bal \$635,378)	238,364	609,237	609,237
Stabilization (bal \$1,527,630.63)	0	0	0
Enterprise Funds-Transfer to General for Indirect	32,000	32,000	32,000
CPA Funds-Approp Fund Bals	15,290	32,530	32,530
Overlay	0	0	0
Other Avail Funds (ATM articles)	20,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
TOTAL EST RECEIPTS & AVAILABLE FUNDS	2,017,249	3,260,269	3,260,269
AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION	7,757,863	8,414,156	8,411,104
MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE LEVY 2 1/2	9,312,053	9,574,854	9,574,854
AMT UNDER MAXIMUM LEVY	(1,554,190)	(1,160,698)	(1,163,750)
OVERRIDE	0	0	0
OVERRIDE OR EXCLUSIONS REQUIRED	0	0	0
TAX RATE	\$16.12	\$16.25	\$16.25
TAX RATE AT LEVY LIMIT	\$19.31	\$18.50	\$18.50
FULL AND FAIR CASH VALUE	482,358,218	517,658,400	517,658,400

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 3, 2021

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 Selectboard.

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: ALEXANDER MEISNER

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY **PASSED UNANIMOUS**

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

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 Selectboard.

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

MOTION BY: BARBARA JACQUE

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY **PASSED UNANIMOUS**

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

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard 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 Selectboard.

MOTION: I move the Town authorize Selectboard to apply for state or federal grants, and to expend any monies received, as set forth in the appropriate grant application.

MOTION BY: HEATH CUMMINGS

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY **PASSED UNANIMOUS**

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

The Finance Committee recommends in favor of this Article.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide the sum of \$1,236.95 to pay Fiscal Year 2020 unpaid bills as listed in the warrant, or take any other action relative thereon or in relation thereto.

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Department</u>
Board of Health Stipends	\$276.80	Board of Health
Gary's Power Equipment	\$ 9.95	Board of Health
Phil Baker	\$ 50.00	Board of Health
Dead River Company	\$111.90	Board of Health
K-P Law	\$ 58.00	Tax Collector
K-P Law	\$ 29.00	Tax Collector
K-P Law	\$398.40	Tax Collector
K-P Law	\$302.90	Tax Collector
	<u>\$1,236.95</u>	

Submitted by the Selectboard.

MOTION: I move the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$1,236.95 to pay unpaid Fiscal Year 2020 bills as listed in the warrant.

MOTION BY: Alexander Meisner

VOTE REQUIRED: FOUR-FIFTHS (PAYMENT OF A PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR BILL)
PASSED UNANIMOUS

NOTES: Due to various circumstances the above obligations were not paid by June 30th of 2020, the end of the fiscal year.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.

ARTICLE 5: 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 2022, 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.

	FY2021	FY2022	FINANCE
	Appropriation	REQUESTED	COMMITTEE
GENERAL GOVERNMENT			RECOMMENDED
MODERATOR SALARY	62	63	63
MODERATOR EXPENSE	10	10	10
SELECTBOARD SALARIES	11,047	11,235	11,235
SECRETARY SALARY	52,779	53,677	53,677
SELECTBOARD WAGES PT	9,021	9,381	9,381
SELECTBOARD EXPENSE	21,100	21,400	21,400
TOWN ADMIN SALARY	98,835	100,803	100,803
TOWN ADMIN EXPENSE	4,150	4,150	4,150
FINANCE COMMITTEE EXP	1,576	1,629	1,629
RESERVE FUND	45,000	55,000	55,000
ACCOUNTANT SALARY	27,008	34,800	34,800
ACCOUNTANT EXPENSE	740	740	740
FINANCIAL ASSISTANT	18,590	18,906	18,906
ASSESSORS STIPENDS	6,137	6,241	6,241
ASSESSORS CLRK WAGES	40,420	42,033	42,033
ASSESSORS PROP INSPEC	16,800	25,500	25,500
ASSESSORS EXPENSE	15,570	15,870	15,870
TREASURER SALARY	19,446	20,599	20,599
TREASURER EXPENSE	10,175	4,900	4,900
TAX COLLECTOR SALARY	19,446	20,599	20,599
TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSE	6,900	6,900	6,900
TOWN LEGAL EXPENSE	25,000	35,000	35,000
COMPUTER SUPPLY & SVC	73,000	71,155	71,155
TAX TITLE	2,300	0	0
TOWN CLERK SALARY	40,420	41,108	41,108
TOWN CLERK EXPENSE	5,700	5,750	5,750
ELECTIONS & REGISTRAR	13,100	14,400	14,400
CONSERVATION COMM EXP	975	3,787	975
PLANNING BOARD EXP	2,470	2,470	2,470
ZONING BRD OF APP EXP	3,154	3,192	3,192
OPEN SPACE COMMISSION	1,400	1,400	1,400
AGRICULTURAL COM EXP	800	800	800

TOWN HALL CUSTODIAN	18,626	18,943	18,943
TOWN HALL MAINTENANCE	60,800	61,900	61,900
TOWN REPORTS	1,000	1,000	1,000
TOWN CLOCK	175	175	175
TOTAL	673,733	715,516	712,704

PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE SALARIES & WAGES	361,240	403,542	403,542
POLICE OPERATING EXP	58,192	58,340	58,340
FIRE DEPART STIPENDS	6,098	6,202	6,202
FIRE DEPARTMENT WAGES	51,182	52,052	52,052
FIRE DEPT OPER & MAINT	44,935	45,235	45,235
FIRE DEPT HOSE & EQUIP	12,000	12,000	12,000
FIRE DEPT INSPEC FEES	3,000	3,000	3,000
FIRE HYDRANTS	5,460	6,500	6,500
FIRE PONDS	3,000	3,000	3,000
BLDG INSPECTOR SALARY	29,289	30,458	30,458
BLDG INSPECT EXPENSE	1,350	1,350	1,350
GAS INSPECTIONS	500	500	500
PLUMBING INSPECTIONS	500	500	500
WIRE INSPECTIONS	500	500	500
CIVIL DEFENSE	4,310	4,310	4,310
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER	9,500	9,500	9,500
ANIMAL CONTROL EXP	700	700	700
TREE DEPARTMENT EXP	10,000	10,000	10,000
CONSTABLE WAGES	2,984	3,052	3,052
CONSTABLE EXPENSE	300	300	300
TOTAL	605,039	651,041	651,041

EDUCATION

ELEM SCHOOL MAINT	0	12,000	12,000
SCHOOL COMM STIPENDS	771	784	784
PVRS ASSESSMENT	4,448,585	4,672,074	4,672,074
PVRS CAPITAL ASSESS	0	4589	4,589
FCTS OPERATING ASSESS	462,069	461,831	461,831
FCTS CAPITAL ASSESS	10,607	10,944	10,944
TUITION & TRANSPORT OUT OF DISTRICT	40,000	40,000	40,000
TOTAL	4,962,032	5,202,222	5,202,222

PUBLIC WORKS AND FACILITIES

HIGHWAY SUPER EXPENSE	18,400	19,600	19,600
HIGHWAY DEPT WAGES	321,043	327,284	327,284
BUILDING MAINT. WAGES	42,370	43,091	43,091
HIGHWAY, BRDGS & RAILS	225,000	225,000	225,000
OIL & STONING	100,000	100,000	100,000
HIGHWAYS TOOLS	1,260	1,260	1,260
SNOW REMOVAL EXPENSE	75,390	75,390	75,390
STREETLIGHTS	16,500	16,500	16,500
MACHINE & GARAGE MAINT	123,050	123,050	123,050
SOLID WASTE DISTRICT	13,221	13,716	13,716
TRANSFER STATION	178,933	179,527	179,527
CEMETERY WAGES & EXP	30,000	30,000	30,000
TOTAL	1,145,167	1,154,418	1,154,418

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

BRD OF HEALTH STIPENDS	2,812	2,861	2,861
SEPTIC INSPECTION FEES	1,500	1,500	1,500
BRD OF HEALTH EXPENSE	7,290	6,797	6,797
SHARED HEALTH AGENT	12,432	12,681	12,681
REGIONAL NURSE	14,800	17,760	17,760
ANIMAL INSPECTOR	2,580	2,317	2,317
COUNCIL ON AGING	68,942	72,679	72,679
SOLDIERS RELIEF	30,000	30,000	30,000
TOTAL	140,356	146,595	146,595

CULTURE, RECREATION, OTHER

DICKINSON LIB WAGES	133,199	134,263	134,263
DICKINSON LIB EXPENSE	41,877	41,941	41,941
NFLD FARMS LIBRARY	700	700	700
RECREATION COMMISSION	7,473	7,515	7,515
RECREATION PRGRM DIR	4,911	4,995	4,995
MAINT ATHLETIC FIELD	6,750	6,750	6,750
HISTORICAL COMMISSION	500	800	560
MAINT HISTORIC MARKERS	500	500	500
MEMORIAL DAY	2,000	2,000	2,000
VETERANS MEM COMM	1,000	1,000	1,000
FRCOG ASSESSMENT	27,833	26,290	26,290
VETERANS DISTRICT	7,129	8,582	8,582
TOTAL	233,872	235,336	235,096

DEBT SERVICE			
INTEREST ON NOTES	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0

INSURANCE AND RETIREMENT			
COUNTY RETIREMENT	188,753	201,910	201,910
INS & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	393,120	413,370	413,370
TOTAL	581,873	615,280	615,280

GRAND TOTAL	8,342,072	8,720,408	8,717,356
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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 2022, 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 \$8,717,356*

MOTION BY: LOIS STEARNS

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY **PASSED UNANIMOUS**

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 in favor of this Article.

ARTICLE 6: 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:

Wages and Salaries	\$295,803
Expenses	\$ 89,620
Budgeted Surplus	\$ 0
Debt Principal	\$ 49,884
Debt Interest	\$ 6,000
TOTAL:	\$441,307

and that \$441,307 be raised as follows:

Department Receipts	\$385,423
Town Tax Levy	\$ 55,884
TOTAL:	\$441,307

or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Submitted by the Selectboard.

MOTION: I move the Town appropriate the sum of \$385,423 to operate the Emergency Medical Services Enterprise Fund as set forth in Article 6, and to raise and appropriate from the Town Tax Levy the sum of \$55,884 for Debt and Interest.

MOTION BY: BARBARA JACQUE

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY **PASSED UNANIMOUS**

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.

The Finance Committee recommends in favor of this Article.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum or sums of money to operate the Sewer Enterprise Fund as shown below:

Sewer Commissioner Salaries	\$ 1,718
Sewer Dept. Collector	\$ 4,073
Sewer Dept. Wages	\$127,475
Oper. & Maint. Sewer Plant	\$ 91,050
Reserve Fund	\$ 10,000
Maturing Debt – Principal	\$ 23,000
Maturing Debt – Interest	\$ 1,903
Transfer to General Fund	\$ 32,000
<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>\$291,219</u>

and that \$291,219 be raised as follows:

Department Receipts	\$291,219
<u>Town Tax Levy</u>	<u>-0-</u>
<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>\$291,219</u>

or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Submitted by the Sewer Commission

MOTION: I move the Town appropriate the sum of \$291,219 to operate the Sewer Enterprise Fund as set forth in Article 7.

MOTION BY: ALEXANDER MEISNER

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY **PASSED UNANIMOUS**

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 in favor of this Article.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums to make sewer improvements and/or install a new manhole on Mill Street, or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto:

Submitted by the Sewer Commission

MOTION: I move the Town vote to transfer from the Sewer Enterprise Fund the amount of \$25,000 to pay for sewer improvements and/or install a new manhole on Mill Street.

MOTION BY: ALEXANDER MEISNER

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY **PASSED UNANIMOUS**

The Finance Committee recommends in favor of this Article.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to accept section 15B of chapter 60, to establish a tax title collection revolving fund pursuant to subsection (c) for the treasurer-collector and to vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums for this account. Such tax title collection revolving fund shall be accounted for separately from all other monies in the town and to which shall be credited any fees, charges and costs incurred by such officer under sections 15, 55, 62, 65, 68 or 79 of chapter 60 and collected upon the redemption of tax titles and sales of real property acquired through foreclosures of tax titles. Expenditures may be made from such revolving fund without further appropriation, subject to this section; provided, however, that expenditures shall not be made, or liabilities incurred from this revolving fund in excess of the balance of the fund nor in excess of the total authorized expenditures from this fund, nor shall any expenditures be made unless approved in accordance with sections 52 and 56 of chapter 41. Interest earned on a tax title collection revolving fund balance shall be treated as general fund revenue of the town. Expenditures from a tax title collection revolving fund authorized for the treasurer-collector shall be spent to pay expenses incurred under this chapter in connection with a tax taking or tax title foreclosure, including, but not limited to, fees and costs of recording or filing documents and instruments, searching, and examining titles, mailing, publishing, or advertising notices or documents, petitioning the land court, serving court filings and documents, and paying legal fees.

Submitted by the Selectboard.

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to accept section 15B of chapter 60, to establish a tax title collection revolving fund pursuant to subsection (c) for the treasurer-collector as defined in Article 9.

MOTION BY: HEATH CUMMINGS

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY **PASSED UNANIMOUS**

NOTES: This allows for the creation of a fund that contains a balance that carries forward for when it is needed as some years are more active than others in tax takings and require more funds and others are less so. Currently each year the appropriation is just an estimate.

The Finance Committee recommends in favor of this Article.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to fix the maximum amount that may be spent during fiscal year 2022 beginning on July 1, 2021 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 Selectboard.

<i>Revolving Fund</i>	<i>Authorized to Spend</i>	<i>Use of Funds</i>	<i>Revenue Source</i>	<i>FY22 Limit</i>
<i>Summer Playground Program</i>	<i>Recreation Commission</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Fees Rec'd</i>	<i>\$35,000</i>
<i>Council on Aging Breakfast & Lunch Program</i>	<i>Council on Aging Director</i>	<i>Senior Meals</i>	<i>Fees Rec'd</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>
<i>Recycling Fund</i>	<i>Board of Health</i>	<i>Recycling Costs</i>	<i>Fee's Received</i>	<i>\$60,000</i>
<i>Gas Inspection</i>	<i>Gas Inspector</i>	<i>Salaries & Expenses</i>	<i>Inspection Fees</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>
<i>Plumbing Inspection</i>	<i>Plumbing Inspector</i>	<i>Salaries & Expenses</i>	<i>Inspection Fees</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>
<i>Wiring Inspection</i>	<i>Wiring Inspector</i>	<i>Salaries & Expenses</i>	<i>Inspection Fees</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>
<i>Tax Title Revolving</i>	<i>Town Treasurer/Collector</i>	<i>Tax Title Expenses</i>	<i>Tax Title Fees</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>

MOTION: I Move the Town vote to fix the maximum amount that may be spent during Fiscal Year 2022 for the revolving funds as set forth in Article 10.

MOTION BY: BARBARA JACQUE

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORTIY **PASSED UNANIMOUS**

NOTE: This Article reauthorizes the annual spending limits on the revolving funds for the Fiscal Year 2022 beginning on July 1, 2021.

The Finance Committee recommends in favor of 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 to purchase new Radios and related equipment for the Fire Department, or take any other action relative thereon or in relation thereto.

Submitted by the Selectboard.

MOTION: I move the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$32,000 to purchase new radios and related equipment for the Fire Department.

MOTION BY: HEATH CUMMINGS

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY PASSED UNANIMOUS

NOTES: These funds will be used to purchase 3 additional mobile radios, 3 vehicle repeaters and the necessary accessories for the transmission of the Fire Department over to the MSP 800 mhz radio network. The MA Communications Grant is providing over \$73,000 in radios. The \$32,000 will provide the remaining communication equipment needed.

The Finance Committee recommends in favor of 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 to Purchase new Radios and related equipment for the Emergency Services Department, or take any other action relative thereon or in relation thereto.

Submitted by the Selectboard.

MOTION: I move the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$10,000 to purchase new radios and related equipment for the Emergency Services Department.

MOTION BY: ALEXANDER MEISNER

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY PASSED UNANIMOUS

NOTES: These funds will be used to supplement the radio funds from the MA Communications Grant for the transition to the COMIRS Radio System.

The Finance Committee recommends in favor of this Article.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums to purchase and equip a Truck for the Highway Department, or take any other action relative thereon or in relation thereto.

Submitted by the Selectboard.

MOTION: I move the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$270,000 to purchase a Truck for the Highway Department.

MOTION BY: BARBARA JACQUE

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY PASSED UNANIMOUS

NOTES: These funds will be used to purchase a truck to replace the 2007 F450 and the 2012 International dump trucks. These will be replaced with a "Hook" truck that has many of the functions of both of the other trucks.

The Finance Committee recommends in favor of 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 and equip a Loader for the Highway Department, or take any other action relative thereon or in relation thereto.

Submitted by the Selectboard.

MOTION: I move the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$200,000 to purchase a loader for the Highway Department.

MOTION BY: HEATH CUMMINGS

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY **PASSED UNANIMOUS**

NOTES: These funds would be used to purchase a new loader as the current loader is 16 years old (2005).

The Finance Committee recommends in favor of this Article.

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 engineering, drainage, and road improvements to Old Wendell Road, or take any other action relative thereon or in relation thereto.

Submitted by the Selectboard.

MOTION: I move the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$200,000 to do engineering, drainage, and road improvements to Old Wendell Road.

MOTION BY: ALEXANDER MEISNER

VOTE REQUIRED: **PASSED MAJORITY**

NOTES: This would begin the work necessary to improve Old Wendell Road where the road has not been improved or maintained to access current building lots. This portion of the road has not been maintained though it is a Town road.

The Finance Committee recommends in favor of 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 to purchase and install a new Furnace/Heating System for the Highway Garage, or take any other action relative thereon or in relation thereto.

Submitted by the Selectboard.

MOTION: I move the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$40,000 to pay for the purchase and installation of a new Furnace/Heating System for the Highway Garage.

MOTION BY: BARBARA JACQUE

VOTE REQUIRED: PASSED MAJORITY

NOTES: The current wood furnace that heats the Highway Garage has failed and will need to be replaced before next winter.

The Finance Committee recommends in favor of 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 to purchase Floor Mats for the Town Hall, or take any other action relative thereon or in relation thereto.

Submitted by the Selectboard.

MOTION: I move the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$5,000 for floor mats for the Town Hall.

MOTION BY: HEATH CUMMINGS

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY PASSED UNANIMOUS

NOTES: The tile and wood floors in Town Hall are covered in old mats that have worn out. Current maintenance is planned to strip and wax and sand the floors. When this is done it will be necessary to purchase new coverings to protect the floors from dirt and water.

The Finance Committee recommends in favor of this Article.

ARTICLE 18: 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
New Computer Switch	\$ 18,000
Total	\$ 28,000

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

Submitted by the Selectboard.

MOTION: I move the Town vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$28,000 for projects at the Northfield Elementary School as presented in Article 18 of this warrant, including all costs incidental thereto.

MOTION BY: ALEXANDER MEISNER

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY PASSED UNANIMOUS

NOTES: This Article would continue the funding for the Elementary School to replace flooring in all the classrooms, library, and cafeteria. This funding would also allow the Elementary School to replace the computer switch (hardware) that they are currently borrowing and put in new hardware that the school would own.

The Finance Committee recommends in favor of this Article.

ARTICLE 19: 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 purchase a new Stove for the Town Hall kitchen, or take any other action relative thereon, or in relation thereto.

Submitted by the Council on Aging

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$3,000 to purchase a new stove for the Town Hall kitchen.

MOTION BY: BARBARA JACQUE

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY PASSED UNANIMOUS

NOTES: The current gas range is experiencing occasional malfunctioning of the gas shut-off mechanism. This results in the gas continuing to flow after the shut off is triggered but without the pilot lights ignited. The pilot light re-lights are located under the unit and you must lie on the floor and reach under the stove each time it is necessary to re-light them. This is not safe or practical for workers or senior volunteers.

The Finance Committee votes to recommend this Article.

ARTICLE 20: 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 repair of the Town Clock, or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Submitted by the Selectboard.

MOTION: I move the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$10,000 to be used for the repair and maintenance of the Town Clock.

MOTION BY: HEATH CUMMINGS

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY PASSED UNANIMOUS

NOTES: To pay for expenses to hire a clock repair specialist to service and repair the clock and an electrician to update and repair the electrical for the clock.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.

ARTICLE 21: 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 use by the 350th Anniversary Committee in planning and executing the Town's 350th Anniversary celebration, or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Submitted by the 350th Anniversary Committee.

MOTION: I move the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$5,000 for use by the 350th Anniversary Committee in planning and executing the Town's 350th Anniversary celebration.

MOTION BY: ALEXANDER MEISNER

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY **PASSED UNANIMOUS**

NOTES: To pay for expenses incurred in purchasing supplies, making deposits, etc. for the of celebration of the Town's 350th Anniversary in 2023.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums to fund a financial audit, or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Submitted by the Selectboard.

MOTION: I move the Town raise and appropriate \$16,000 to fund a financial audit of Fiscal Year 2021, including all costs incidental thereto.

MOTION BY: BARBARA JACQUE

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY **PASSED UNANIMOUS**

NOTES: This Article funds an independent audit of the Town's financial accounts, reports, and fiscal operations for Fiscal Year 2021. Audited financial statements are a requirement for issuing general obligation bonds.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.

ARTICLE 23: 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.

Submitted by the Selectboard.

MOTION: I move the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 to deposit into the Town's OPEB Trust Fund.

MOTION BY: LOIS STEARNS

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY **PASSED UNANIMOUS**

NOTES: This Article would provide funds for the fourth year so that the Town would be contributing to the Town's Trust Fund to meet future retiree health insurance payout obligations.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to create a Capital Stabilization Fund in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 40, Section 5B, and to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums to the Capital Stabilization Fund, or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Submitted by the Selectboard.

MOTION: I move the Town vote to establish a Capital Stabilization Fund in accordance with MGL Chapter 40, Section 5B and to Raise and Appropriate \$150,000 to be deposited into the account.

MOTION BY: LOIS STEARNS

VOTE REQUIRED: TWO-THIRDS (establishing a Stabilization Fund)
PASSED UNANIMOUS

NOTES: This new Capital Stabilization Fund would augment the General Stabilization Fund. A General Stabilization Fund is generally used for protection of the Town's general budget, emergency financing and sudden revenue loss in order to help stabilize the tax rate. A Capital Stabilization Fund is used to save for Capital projects the Town is planning for so as to have some funding available to help stabilize the tax rate when making large capital purchases. The Town is working on new Financial Policies and Procedures and this would be in line with those and in line with best practices for municipal financial management.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.

ARTICLE 25: 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 Capital Stabilization Fund or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Submitted by the Selectboard.

MOTION: I move the Town vote to transfer \$1,000,000 from the Town's General Stabilization Fund to the Town's Capital Stabilization Fund.

MOTION BY: LOIS STEARNS

VOTE REQUIRED: TWO-THIRDS (withdrawing funds from a Stabilization Account)
PASSED UNANIMOUS

NOTES: This action is being done in conjunction with the article above. This would be in line with best practices for municipal financial management and would leave \$527,630 in General Stabilization.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote, upon recommendation of the Community Preservation Commission, to appropriate the sum of \$5,530 from the Community Preservation Fund balance for Open Space/Recreation and/or the Undesignated Fund balance for the Mill Brook Trails Restoration project, or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Community Preservation Committee

MOTION: I move the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$5,530 from the Community Preservation Fund balance for Open Space/Recreation and/or the Undesignated Fund balance for the Mill Brook Trails Restoration project.

MOTION BY: LARA DUBIN, Community Preservation Committee

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY **PASSED UNANIMOUS**

NOTES: This article would provide funding to the Northfield Open Space Committee for the restoration of the Mill Brooks Trail. This 1/5-mile trail is located in the Mill Brook Wetlands Area between the Dickinson Memorial Library and the Northfield Golf Course. This trail system serves as an excellent birding and wildlife viewing spot close to the village center and part of the trail is used as a "story trail" by the library. The funding will be used to purchase materials to replace and repair bridges used to cross wet/marshy spots and to protect the wetland.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote, upon recommendation of the Community Preservation Commission, to appropriate for historic preservation purposes the sum of \$25,000 from the Community Preservation Fund balance for Historical Preservation and/or the Undesignated Fund balance for the unanticipated emergency repair of the wooden structures attaching the Town Clock's four faces to the steeple proper, for or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Community Preservation Committee

MOTION: I move the Town will vote to appropriate for historic preservation purposes the sum of \$25,000 from the Community Preservation Fund balance for Historical Preservation and/or the Undesignated Fund balance for the unanticipated emergency

repair of the wooden structures attaching the Town Clock's four faces to the steeple proper.

MOTION BY: LARA DUBIN, Community Preservation Committee

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY **PASSED UNANIMOUS**

NOTES: This article would provide funding for the repair of extensive dry rot found in the wooden structures which hold the Town Clock's four faces onto the steeple. This project was determined to meet CPA Historical qualifications because of the First Parish Church's history of serving as the town meetinghouse in the early days of Northfield. The building is included in the Northfield Main Street Historic District as designated by the National Park Service National Register of Historic Places. The clock itself is owned by the Town of Northfield, which also pays for the electricity to run the clock.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote, upon recommendation of the Community Preservation Commission, to appropriate for open space/recreational purposes the sum of \$2,000 from the Community Preservation Fund balance for Open Space/Recreation and/or the Undesignated Fund balance to be used towards the purchase and installation of a storage shed for the purpose of maintaining the Senior Center's recreational and mobility equipment, or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Community Preservation Committee

MOTION: I move the Town will vote to appropriate for open space/recreational purposes the sum of \$2,000 from the Community Preservation Fund balance for Open Space/Recreation and/or the Undesignated Fund balance to be used towards the purchase and installation of a storage shed for the purpose of maintaining the Senior Center's recreational and mobility equipment.

MOTION BY: LARA DUBIN, Community Preservation Committee

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY **PASSED UNANIMOUS**

NOTES: This article would provide funding for the Northfield Council on Aging to install a storage shed to create easy access to recreational equipment for the Senior Center and to house the COA's mobility lending library (wheelchairs, etc.). This will replace the current storage situation which is a closet in Town Hall. The location of the shed will be behind the Town Hall, exact placement to be approved by the Selectboard. The style of the shed will be in keeping with the style of the other buildings on the site as recommended by the Historical Commission.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will, upon recommendation of the Community Preservation Commission, reserve from the FY 2022 Community Preservation Fund the following estimated amounts be set aside from estimated annual revenue: the sum of 5% (\$1,250) for administrative

expenses; 10% (\$2,500) for open space purposes; 10% (\$2,500) for historic preservation; 10% (\$2,500) for affordable housing; and the remaining 65% (\$16,250) to the FY 2022 Community Preservation Fund budgeted reserve; or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Community Preservation Committee

MOTION: I move the Town reserve from the FY 2022 Community Preservation Fund the following estimated amounts be set aside from estimated annual revenue: the sum of 5% (\$1,250) for administrative expenses; 10% (\$2,500) for open space purposes; 10% (\$2,500) for historic preservation; 10% (\$2,500) for affordable housing; and the remaining 65% (\$16,250) to the FY 2022 Community Preservation Fund budgeted reserve.

MOTION BY: LARA DUBIN, Community Preservation Committee

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY **PASSED UNANIMOUS**

NOTES: This article is in compliance with 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 2022, under the local surcharge and the November state matching funds for the prior fiscal year.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to amend the language in Article 36 of Town Meeting from March 7, 1972 by changing the language from "appointment....of a Conservation Commission consisting of not less than three nor more than seven members..." to the following, "appointment ...of a Conservation Commission consisting of not less than three nor more than five members..." or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Selectboard.

MOTION: I move the Town vote to amend the language in Article 36 of Town Meeting from March 7, 1972 by changing the language from "appointment....of a Conservation Commission consisting of not less than three nor more than seven members..." to the following, "appointment ...of a Conservation Commission consisting of not less than three nor more than five members..."

MOTION BY: BARBARA JACQUE

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY **PASSED UNANIMOUS**

NOTES: The Commission has not been able to fill all seven of the seats and therefore has difficulty in maintaining a four-person quorum for a seven-member board. Reducing the number to five members would lower the quorum to three and make operation of the Conservation Commission easier.

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will vote to (a) authorize the Selectboard to acquire, by purchase, gift and/or eminent domain and on such terms as the Selectboard deems appropriate, the fee to and/or permanent and temporary easements in, on, under and over certain parcels of land located on or near East Northfield Road and approximately shown on plans entitled "Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division Plan and Profile of East Northfield Road Over Connecticut River (Bridge No. N-22-002) in the Town of Northfield Franklin County," prepared by WSP USA, Inc., on file with the Town Clerk, as said plans may be amended from time to time and/or incorporated into an easement plan, and land within 200 feet of said parcels, for public way purposes, including without limitation, for the construction, installation, inspection, maintenance, improvement, repair, replacement and/or relocation of a bridge, rights of way, sidewalks, drainage, utilities, driveways, retaining ways, guardrails, slopes, grading, rounding, construction, landscaping, and other structures and/or appurtenances, to enable the Town to undertake the East Northfield Road Bridge Reconstruction Project and for any and all purposes and uses incidental or related thereto; (b) transfer the care, custody, and control of the portions of the Town-owned properties shown on the aforesaid plans from the board or officer having custody of the same for the purposes for which such properties are currently held to the Selectboard for the foregoing purposes and further to dedicate said portions of the Town-owned properties to said purposes, and, if applicable, authorize the Selectboard to submit petitions to the General Court to permit the foregoing under Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution or otherwise; (c) authorize the Selectboard to accept an easement(s) from Western Massachusetts Electric Company, or its successor, for the foregoing purposes, on such terms and conditions and for such consideration as the Selectboard deems appropriate; (d) raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow a sum of money to fund the foregoing project and any and all costs incidental or related thereto, including, without limitation, the cost of any land/easement acquisitions, appraisals, and surveys; and, further, authorize the Selectboard to enter into all agreements and take any and all actions as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate the foregoing purposes; or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Submitted by the Selectboard.

MOTION: I Move the vote to (a) authorize the Selectboard to acquire, by purchase, gift and/or eminent domain and on such terms as the Selectboard deems appropriate, the fee to and/or permanent and temporary easements in, on, under and over certain parcels of land located on or near East Northfield Road and approximately shown on plans entitled "Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division Plan and Profile of East Northfield Road Over Connecticut River (Bridge No. N-22-002) in the Town of Northfield Franklin County," prepared by WSP USA, Inc., on file with the Town Clerk, as said plans may be amended from time to time and/or incorporated into an easement plan, and land within 200 feet of said parcels, for public way purposes, including without limitation, for the construction, installation, inspection, maintenance, improvement, repair, replacement and/or relocation of a bridge, rights of way, sidewalks, drainage, utilities, driveways, retaining ways, guardrails, slopes, grading, rounding, construction, landscaping, and other structures and/or appurtenances, to enable the Town to undertake the East Northfield Road Bridge Reconstruction Project and for any and all purposes and uses incidental or related thereto; (b) transfer the care, custody, and control of the portions of the Town-owned properties shown on the aforesaid plans from the board or officer having custody of the same for the purposes for which such properties are currently held to the Selectboard for the foregoing purposes and further to dedicate said portions of the Town-owned properties to said purposes, and, if applicable, authorize the Selectboard to submit petitions to the

General Court to permit the foregoing under Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution or otherwise; (c) authorize the Selectboard to accept an easement(s) from Western Massachusetts Electric Company, or its successor, for the foregoing purposes, on such terms and conditions and for such consideration as the Selectboard deems appropriate; (d) raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow a sum of money to fund the foregoing project and any and all costs incidental or related thereto, including, without limitation, the cost of any land/easement acquisitions, appraisals, and surveys; and, further, authorize the Selectboard to enter into all agreements and take any and all actions as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate the foregoing purposes.

MOTION BY: ALEXANDER MEISNER

VOTE REQUIRED: TWO-THIRDS (Acquisition of Real Property)
PASSED UNANIMOUS

NOTES: To allow the Selectboard to participate in the right-of-way process for the Schell Bridge Project and secure the necessary easements and land rights for the construction or modification of the bridge.

ARTICLE 32: 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 pay for Right-of-Way Expenses for the Schell Bridge Project, or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Submitted by the Selectboard.

Motion: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$25,000 to pay for Right-of-Way expenses for the Schell Bridge Project.

MOTION BY: HEATH CUMMINGS

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY **PASSED UNANIMOUS**

NOTES: This article will pay for legal and engineering expenses to determine how abutting property owners' property interests are being affected, the maps necessary to show this impact to the abutter, and to work with the property owners to resolve and potentially pay for the costs of any impacts.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.

At this point the Moderator stepped aside for the next two Articles (33, and 34) in order to avoid any conflict or appearance of a conflict of interest.

The Town Clerk then asked for a motion to designate someone to preside over the next two warrant articles.

Alexander Meisner was nominated and was seconded by Heath Cummings.

There was no debate, and a vote was taken. PASSED UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to enter into an agreement for payment in lieu of taxes pursuant to G.L. c. 59, s. 38H(b), or any other enabling legislation, for taxes attributable to the following solar installations:

Array "A"

Pine Meadow Rd, Parcels 53-E1 & 54-B7

System Size: 6.0 MW, 41.3 Acres

Array "B"

Pine Meadow Road, Parcels 55-B1 & 54-B5

System Size: 4.3 MW, 26.1 Acres

Array "C"

612 Pine Meadow Road, Parcel 54-A8

System Size: 0.6 MW, 1.8 Acres

on such terms and conditions and for a term of years as the Selectboard deems in the best interest of the Town, and take any action necessary or convenient for the implantation and administration of such agreement; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Assessors

MOTION: I move the Town authorize the Selectboard to enter into an agreement for payment in lieu of taxes pursuant to G.L. c. 59, s. 38H(b), and Chapter 164, Section 1, or any other enabling legislation, between the Town and/or its successors or assigns, for real and/or personal property for taxes attributable to the Solar Arrays A, B and C as listed in this warrant, installed and operated in Town on an approximate total of 70 acres of a portion of a parcel, or parcels of land, located on Pine Meadow Road, Northfield, Massachusetts, on such terms and conditions, and for a term of years as the Selectboard deems in the best interest of the Town, and further to authorize the Selectboard take any action necessary or convenient for the implementation and administration of the vote taken hereunder.

MOTION BY: ALEXANDER MEISNER

VOTE REQUIRED: **PASSED MAJORITY**

NOTES: This Article gives the Selectboard the authority to sign a negotiated Payment in lieu of taxes agreement on this solar project.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.

ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c. 64L, §2(a) authorizing the Town to impose a Local Sales Tax at the statutory rate of three-quarters of a percent (0.75%), of the gross receipts of the vendor on the sale of restaurant meals originating within the Town, or take any action relating thereto.

Submitted by the Selectboard.

Motion: I move that the Town vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c. 64L, §2(a) authorizing the Town to impose a Local Sales Tax at the statutory rate of three-quarters of a percent (0.75%), of the gross receipts of the vendor on the sale of restaurant meals originating within the Town.

MOTION BY: BARBARA JACQUE

VOTE REQUIRED: PASSED MAJORITY

NOTES: M.G.L. c. 64L, §2

Section 2. (a) A city or town which accepts this section in the manner provided in section 4 of chapter 4 may impose a local sales tax upon the sale of restaurant meals originating within the city or town by a vendor at a rate of .75 per cent of the gross receipts of the vendor from the sale of restaurant meals. No excise shall be imposed if the sale is exempt under section 6 of chapter 64H. The vendor shall pay the local sales tax imposed under this section to the commissioner at the same time and in the same manner as the sales tax due to the commonwealth.

The Finance Committee takes no position on this Article.

ARTICLE 35: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 64N, §3 to impose an Excise Tax upon the retail sales of marijuana or marijuana products by at the rate of three percent (3%), or take any other action relating thereto.

Submitted by the Selectboard.

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 64N, §3 to impose an Excise Tax upon the retail sales of marijuana or marijuana products by at the rate of three percent (3%).

MOTION BY: HEATH CUMMINGS

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY PASSED UNANIMOUS

NOTES: M. G. L. Chapter 64N, §3

(a) A city or town that accepts this section in the manner provided in section 4 of chapter 4 may impose a local sales tax upon sale or transfer of marijuana or marijuana products by a marijuana retailer operating within the city or town to anyone other than a marijuana establishment at a rate not greater than 3 per cent of the total sales price received by the marijuana retailer as a consideration for the sale of marijuana or marijuana products. The marijuana retailer shall pay the local sales tax imposed under this section to the commissioner at the same time and in the same manner as the sales tax due to the commonwealth.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.

ARTICLE 36: To see if the Town will vote to adopt M.G.L. Chapter 64G, §3, Local Option Room Occupancy Excise, as amended, for short-term rental under 90 days annually, and an

Occupancy Excise on short-term rentals in excess of 90 days annually, of 6%, but that no excise shall be imposed if the total amount of the rent is less than fifteen dollars (\$15.00).

Submitted by the Selectboard.

Motion: I move that the Town vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 64G, §3a* to impose a Local Option Room Occupancy Excise Tax on short-term rental under 90 days annually, and an Occupancy Exercise on short-term rentals in excess of 90 days annually, of 6%, but that no excise shall be imposed if the total amount of the rent is less than fifteen (\$15.00) dollars.

MOTION BY: ALEANDER MEISNER

*Amend article as printed in the warrant to include "a."

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY **FAILED**

NOTES: M.G.L. 64G, Section 3A

Section 3A. A city or town that accepts this section may impose a local excise upon the transfer of occupancy of a room in a bed and breakfast establishment, hotel, lodging house, short-term rental or motel located within that city or town by an operator at a rate of not more than 6 per cent of the total amount of rent for each such occupancy; provided, however, that the city of Boston may impose such local excise upon the transfer of occupancy of a room in a bed and breakfast establishment, hotel, lodging house, short-term rental or motel located within the city by an operator at the rate of not more than 6.5 per cent of the total amount of rent of each such occupancy. No excise shall be imposed if the total amount of rent is less than \$15 per day or its equivalent or if the accommodation is exempt under section 2. An operator shall pay the local excise imposed under this section to the commissioner at the same time and in the same manner as the excise due to the commonwealth. All sums received by the commissioner under this section as excise, penalties or forfeitures, interest, costs of suit and fines shall at least quarterly be distributed, credited, and paid by the state treasurer upon certification of the commissioner to each city or town that has adopted this section in proportion to the amount of such sums received from the transfer of occupancy in each such city or town.

The Finance Committee recommends this Article.

ARTICLE 37: To see if the Town will adopt the resolution outlined in Appendix 2 of this document, to wit.

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 2020, 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 of the following named persons be herewith noticed and recorded in the minutes of this Annual Town Meeting of 2020 in grateful recognition of their work on behalf of the Town,

or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Selectboard.

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 **PASSED UNANIMOUS**

NOTES: This article seeks to recognize and express the Town’s gratitude for the service reed by the parties sted in Appendix 2 of this document **APPENDIX 2: A Resolution of Gratitude**

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 2020 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 2021 in grateful recognition of their work on behalf of the Town:

TOWNSPEOPLE OF NORTHFIELD
JUNE 2021

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 2020 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 2021 in grateful recognition of their work on behalf of the Town:

Accountant	Stacey Mousseau
Agricultural Commission	Robert Duby
Board of Health	Dan Gray
Board of Trustees of Veterans Memorials	Phil Watson
Building Maintenance	Sam Stevens
Selectboard	Tracy Rogers
Community Preservation Committee	Yolanda Merchant
Council on Aging	Linda Hescocock, Ted Thornton, Frank Foster, Suzanne McGowan,

Cultural Council	Deb Potee
Election Officer	Linda Leavis, Alice Fortier, Carol Holden, Peter Blake, Joanne Newton, Bernie Porada, Kay Snow, Susan Lacey, Tom King
EMS	Erik Davidson, Tessa Kwaraany, Allison Lessard, Tim Putnam, Nino Rodriquez, Michael Shedd, Tom Valle, Randy Wheelock, Tammy Wheelock, McClellan White
Emergency Services Facility Committee	Tom Newton, Tracy Rogers
Energy Committee	Annie Chappell
Fire Department	Norm Caulkins, Michael Grover, Tom Holton, Michael Lovett, Tom Newton, John Otto, Pat Spedding
Historical Commission	Carol Lebo
Pioneer Valley Regional School Committee	Patricia Shearer
Police Dept	Derek Worden, Robert Haughey Jr.
Recreation Commission	Robert Henry, Brian Winslow
Sewer Department	Chelsea Little, Everett Wickline
Sewer Commission	Tom Walker
Trustee Fred Wells Will	Ted Penick

You are directed to serve this Warrant by posting a copy thereof attested to by you in writing in each of six public places in the Town at least seven days before the time for holding the meeting called for in the Warrant. Herefore fail not, and make do return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk of said Town on or before the Twentieth Day of April, 2021

Given under our hands this 12th day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Alexander R. Meisner
Alexander R. Meisner, Chair

Heath F. Cummings
Heath F. Cummings

Barbara L. Jacque
Barbara L. Jacque

Attest
Daniel Campbell
Daniel Campbell, Town Clerk

4/13/2021
Date

Franklin, SS

Pursuant to the within Notice Posting, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Northfield by posting up attested copies of the same at the Town Hall, U.S. Post Office in Northfield; the Dickinson Memorial Library; the Field Library, Northfield Farms and the VFW, West Northfield, in said Town seven (7) days at least before date hereof, as within directed.

David R. Branson
Constable of Northfield

4-15-2021
Date

MAY REMOVE AFTER MAY 4, 2021



PUBLIC NOTICE
Section 121
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
Northfield, Massachusetts
May 4, 2021
12:00- 8:00 p.m.

Franklin, SS

The Town of Northfield's Annual Town Election will be held on Tuesday,
 May 4, 2021 from 12:00pm-8:00pm pm at 69 Main Street Northfield Town Hall for the Election
 for the following Town Offices:

Two	Selectboard	3-year term
One	Selectboard	2-year term
One	Board of Assessors	3-year term
Two	Board of Health	3-year term
Two	Board of Library Trustee	3-year term
One	Planning Board	5-year term
One	Planning Board	4-year term
One	Recreation Commission	3-year term
One	Recreation Commission	2-year term
One	Sewer Commissioner	3-year term
One	Board of Trustees of Veterans Memorials Veteran	3-year term
One	Board of Trustees of Veterans Memorials Non-Veteran	3-year term
One	Moderator	3-year term
One	Town Clerk	3-year term



 Alexander R. Meisner Chair

4/5/2021

 Date




 Barbara L. Jacque



 Heath Cummings

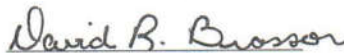
SELECTBOARD



 Attest Daniel R. Campbell
 Town Clerk

MAY BE REMOVED AFTER MAY 5, 2021

Pursuant to the within Notice Posting, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Northfield by posting up attested copies of the same at the Town Hall, U.S. Post Office in Northfield; the Dickinson Memorial Library; the Field Library, Northfield Farms and the VFW, West Northfield, in said Town seven (7) days at least before date hereof, as within directed.



 Constable of Northfield
4-15-2021 Date