



**TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
WARRANT ARTICLES**

*Tuesday, May 3, 2016*

*7:00 p.m.*

*Oakmont Regional High School Auditorium*

*9 Oakmont Drive*

*Ashburnham, MA 01430*

The following is a list of warrant articles and the recommendations of the Board of Selectmen, the Advisory Board and the Capital Planning Committee for the May 3, 2016 Annual Town Meeting.

|               |  | Selectmen<br>Recomm. | Capital Plan.<br>Recomm. | Advisory<br>Recomm. | Tax Rate<br>Increase |
|---------------|--|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
|               | <b>CONSENT AGENDA – Articles 1 thru 8</b>                                      | <b>Yes</b>           | <b>N/A</b>               | <b>Yes</b>          | <b>N/A</b>           |
| <b>Art. 1</b> | <b>Accept reports of Town Officers and Committees</b>                          | <b>Yes</b>           | <b>N/A</b>               | <b>Yes</b>          | <b>N/A</b>           |
| <b>Art. 2</b> | <b>Light Department PILOT payment</b>  | <b>Yes</b>           | <b>N/A</b>               | <b>Yes</b>          | <b>N/A</b>           |
| <b>Art. 3</b> | <b>Tax Anticipation Note Authority for Treasurer</b>                           | <b>Yes</b>           | <b>N/A</b>               | <b>Yes</b>          | <b>N/A</b>           |
| <b>Art. 4</b> | <b>Authority for Town Administrator to Contract with Mass. Highway</b>         | <b>Yes</b>           | <b>N/A</b>               | <b>Yes</b>          | <b>N/A</b>           |
| <b>Art. 5</b> | <b>Authority to Expend Ch. 90 Road Repair Money</b>                            | <b>Yes</b>           | <b>N/A</b>               | <b>Yes</b>          | <b>N/A</b>           |
| <b>Art. 6</b> | <b>Transfer of Cushing Academy Trust Fund Income</b>                           | <b>Yes</b>           | <b>N/A</b>               | <b>Yes</b>          | <b>N/A</b>           |
| <b>Art. 7</b> | <b>Transfer Title V receipts to pay principal and interest on septic loans</b> | <b>Yes</b>           | <b>N/A</b>               | <b>Yes</b>          | <b>N/A</b>           |
| <b>Art. 8</b> | <b>Offset receipt account for Waterways Improvement Fund</b>                   | <b>Yes</b>           | <b>N/A</b>               | <b>Yes</b>          | <b>N/A</b>           |

|         |   |            |            |            |              |
|---------|---|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Art. 9  | FY17 Budget   | <b>Yes</b> | <b>N/A</b> | <b>Yes</b> | <b>\$.44</b> |
| Art. 10 | School budget override  |            |            |            |              |
| Art. 11 | FY17 Water Enterprise Budget                                  | <b>Yes</b> | <b>N/A</b> | <b>Yes</b> | <b>N/A</b>   |
| Art. 12 | FY17 Sewer Enterprise Budget                                  | <b>Yes</b> | <b>N/A</b> | <b>Yes</b> | <b>N/A</b>   |
| Art. 13 | Capital Planning Committee recommended expenditures           | <b>Yes</b> | <b>Yes</b> | <b>Yes</b> | <b>N/A</b>   |
| Art 14  | Borrowing for DPW, Water, and Sewer Facility                  | <b>Yes</b> | <b>Yes</b> | <b>Yes</b> | <b>FY 18</b> |
| Art 15  | Light Department Land Purchase                                | <b>Yes</b> | <b>Yes</b> | <b>Yes</b> | <b>N/A</b>   |
| Art 16  | Citizen petition to accept Mass General Law Ch 60 section 62A | <b>NO</b>  | <b>N/A</b> | <b>NO</b>  |              |

**Current Tax Rate for FY16 is \$22.75**

**Estimated Tax Rate for FY17 is \$23.19 a 1.94% increase**

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT  
TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

WORCESTER, SS

TO THE CONSTABLES OF THE TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM, IN WORCESTER COUNTY,

GREETINGS:

IN THE NAME OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, YOU ARE HEREBY DIRECTED TO NOTIFY AND WARN THE INHABITANTS OF SAID TOWN QUALIFIED TO VOTE IN ELECTIONS AND TOWN AFFAIRS TO MEET AT OAKMONT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, 9 OAKMONT DRIVE, ASHBURNHAM, MA ON

**TUESDAY, THE THIRD OF MAY, 2016  
BEGINNING AT 7:05 P.M.**

THEN AND THERE TO VOTE ON THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES AND RESOLUTIONS:

**ARTICLE 1:**

To accept the reports of several town officers and all outstanding committees, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Board of Selectmen)*

SELECTMEN  
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.  
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.  
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE  
IMPACT: N/A

**Brief Explanation:** *Annual article to accept the reports of Town officials and boards.*

**Article 1 Voted:** On motion of Duncan Phyfe, it was moved that articles **1 through 8** be approved by consent.

Majority "YES"

**ARTICLE 2:**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize a PILOT payment based on the annual kilowatt sales of the Light Department multiplied by a per kilowatt value. from the Municipal Light Plant Funds, to the town treasury, as authorized by its Light Board in accordance with Chapter 164 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Municipal Light Department)*

SELECTMEN  
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.  
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.  
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE  
IMPACT: N/A

**Brief Explanation:** *The PILOT agreement is tied to the Pilot payment in the annual kilowatt sales of the light department multiplied by a per kilowatt value. This was put in place for FY13 to ease the calculation and establish a standard process for future years. In FY17 it is estimated we will receive \$66,000.*

**Article 2 Voted:** On motion of Duncan Phyfe, it was moved that articles **1 through 8** be approved by consent.

Majority "YES"

**ARTICLE 3:**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the financial year beginning July 1, 2016, in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Treasurer)*

SELECTMEN  
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.  
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.  
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE  
IMPACT: N/A

**Brief Explanation:** *Allows the Treasurer to temporarily borrow operating funds for the Town to ensure payments are done in a timely manner. The Treasurer can only borrow that amount which is expected to be received.*

**Article 3 Voted:** On motion of Duncan Phyfe, it was moved that articles **1 through 8** be approved by consent.

Majority "YES"

**ARTICLE 4:**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Administrator to enter into a contract or contracts with the Massachusetts Highway Department for the construction and maintenance of town roads in conformance with the Massachusetts General Laws, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Administrator)*

SELECTMEN  
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.  
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.  
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE  
IMPACT: N/A

**Brief Explanation:** *This article allows the Town Administrator to contract with the State to do road repairs in Ashburnham.*

**Article 4 Voted:** On motion of Duncan Phyfe, it was moved that articles **1 through 8** be approved by consent.

Majority "YES"

**ARTICLE 5:**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all funds which become available in the Fiscal Year 2017 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Highways, Chapter 90 Bond Issue proceeds, to be used by the DPW for the repair and maintenance of town roads in conformance with Massachusetts General Laws, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Administrator)*

SELECTMEN  
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.  
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.  
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE  
IMPACT: N/A

**Brief Explanation:** *This annual article allows the Town to expend its Chapter 90 state funds. For fiscal year 2017 the amount of those funds is estimated to be \$345,503.*

**Article 5 Voted:** On motion of Duncan Phyfe, it was moved that articles **1 through 8** be approved by consent.

Majority “YES”

**ARTICLE 6:**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of trust fund income not to exceed \$2,500 from the Cushing Academy Trust Fund to pay for the fiscal year 2017 secondary school expenses, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by Town Administrator)*

SELECTMEN  
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.  
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.  
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE  
IMPACT: N/A

**Brief Explanation:** *This is the transfer of funds (interest) from the Cushing Academy Trust fund (\$116,000). When the Town students were removed from Cushing Academy it was required to deposit \$114,000 into the Town’s funds and the interest earned on these monies were to be used to offset the cost to the Town for secondary education in public schools.*

**Article 6 Voted:** On motion of Duncan Phyfe, it was moved that article **1 through 8** be approved by consent.

Majority “YES”

**ARTICLE 7:**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$25,873 from special assessments Title V Receipts Account (septic system loan program) to pay principal and interest due on notes payable to the Water Pollution Abatement Trust, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Administrator)*

SELECTMEN  
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.  
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.  
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE  
IMPACT: N/A

**Brief Explanation:** *The Town established a Septic System Loan Program where the cost was established as betterments. Each year charges are levied on the tax bills, and the revenue required is reserved or appropriated. We then must transfer monies required to cover the loan payment.*

**Article 7 Voted:** On motion of Duncan Phyfe, it was moved that article **1 through 8** be approved by consent.

Majority “YES”

**ARTICLE 8:**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money not to exceed \$3,500 from the Waterways Improvement Fund for the purpose of waterway improvement, maintenance, and safety, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Ashburnham Lakes Coalition)*

SELECTMEN  
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.  
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.  
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE  
IMPACT: N/A

**Brief Explanation:** *The Waterways Improvement Fund is funded by a portion of the boat excise tax to be used for waterways maintenance, access, law enforcement or fire prevention. The Lakes Association has been given the charge of recommending the use of these monies to the Board of Selectmen who then approve or disapprove expenditures. In the past these monies have been used for Police boat patrols, lifesaving courses, purchase of a Police boat and other water related expenditures.*

**Article 8 Voted:** On motion of Duncan Phyfe, it was moved that article **1 through 8** be approved by consent.

Majority "YES"

**ARTICLE 9:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2016 and to set the salaries of elected officials; or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Board of Selectmen and Advisory Board)*

SELECTMEN  
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.  
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.  
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE  
IMPACT: \$0.50

| LINE | DEPARTMENT             | FY15 SPENT | FY16 BUDGET | FY17 ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMEND |
|------|------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| 1    | Moderator              | 100        | 100         | 100                           |
| 2    | Board of Selectmen     | 5,213      | 6,885       | 6,935                         |
| 3    | Town Administrator     | 190,700    | 182,705     | 187,667                       |
| 4    | Advisory Board         | 50,500     | 50,500      | 50,500                        |
| 5    | Town Accountant        | 68,339     | 69,105      | 67,660                        |
| 6    | Board of Assessors     | 109,374    | 108,500     | 111,500                       |
| 7    | Treasurer              | 117,294    | 110,340     | 122,078                       |
| 8    | Tax Collector          | 69,943     | 65,193      | 68,383                        |
| 9    | Information Technology | 174,853    | 190,575     | 208,623                       |
| 10   | Town Clerk             | 52,411     | 53,083      | 57,502                        |
| 11   | Land Use               | 28,366     | 41,317      | 41,567                        |
| 12   | Town Hall              | 41,514     | 43,103      | 44,315                        |
| 13   | Town Buildings         | 141,451    | 155,921     | 154,733                       |
| 14   | Non-Departmental       | 174,647    | 89,168      | 90,681                        |
| LINE | DEPARTMENT             | FY15 SPENT | FY16 BUDGET | FY17 ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMEND |
| 16   | Resource Officer       | -          | 30,000      | 35,000                        |
| 17   | Emergency Dispatch     | 222,625    | 274,090     | 287,120                       |
| 18   | Fire                   | 645,034    | 615,274     | 638,566                       |
| 19   | Inspections            | 64,194     | 89,797      | 91,097                        |
| 20   | Animal Control         | 29,917     | 30,600      | 33,850                        |

|              |                          |                   |                   |                   |
|--------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 21           | Monty Tech               | 442,182           | 463,668           | 445,572           |
| 22           | AWRSD                    | 6,577,007         | 6,552,760         | 6,727,170         |
| 23           | DPW                      | 707,222           | 719,872           | 741,801           |
| 24           | Snow & Ice               | 367,034           | 200,000           | 220,000           |
| 25           | Board of Health          | 18,000            | 22,868            | 23,719            |
| 26           | Conservation Commission  | 24,978            | 31,373            | 30,181            |
| 27           | Council on Aging         | 15,943            | 24,639            | 25,448            |
| 28           | Veterans' Services       | 71,949            | 77,905            | 75,688            |
| 29           | Library                  | 194,495           | 203,449           | 203,833           |
| 30           | Agricultural Commission  | -                 | 300               | 300               |
| 31           | Parks & Recreation Comm. | 20,040            | 19,900            | 20,550            |
| 32           | Historical Commission    | -                 | 2,000             | 2,000             |
| 33           | Debt Service             | 2,034,519         | 2,003,241         | 1,943,085         |
| 34           | Employee Ins. Benefits   | 1,398,344         | 1,169,756         | 1,195,201         |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |                          | <b>15,178,198</b> | <b>14,902,273</b> | <b>15,191,159</b> |

Setting of Elected Salaries under Article 9:

- a. Town Moderator: \$100
- b. Board of Selectmen: Chairman - \$1,300; Clerk - \$1,100; Member - \$1,100
- c. Board of Health: \$140 per member

SELECTMEN  
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.  
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.  
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE  
IMPACT: \$.44

**Brief Explanation: Annual operating budget article as noted represents a 1.94% increase over 2016. The revenues to offset the cost of the proposed budget come from the following sources:**

|                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Taxes</b>          | <b>\$13,156,510</b> |
| <b>State Aid</b>      | <b>\$ 938,645</b>   |
| <b>Local Receipts</b> | <b>\$ 1,096,004</b> |

**Article 9 Voted:** On motion of Bill Johnson, it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,191,159 for the Departments and purposes noted in the warrant and to set the salary for all Elected Officials as printed in the warrant.

149 YES 38 NO

**ARTICLE 10:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the operating budget of the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District, in addition to the sum voted under Article 9 for said operating budget, provided that no funds shall be expended and no bonds shall be issued unless the Town has first voted at an election to exempt this expenditure from the provisions of Proposition 2½, so called, and further provided that the Town of Westminster also votes to approve and fund its proportional share of such additional appropriations, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Board of Selectmen)*

SELECTMEN  
RECOMMEND: TBD

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.  
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.  
RECOMMEND: TBD

TAX RATE  
IMPACT: \$0.00

**Brief Explanation:** *This article if passed with a subsequent ballot question will add monies to the AWRSD budget to support their assessment request.*

**Article 10 Voted:** On motion of Dave Christiansen it was voted to PASS OVER this article.

Majority "YES"

**ARTICLE 11:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to operate the Water Department for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Administrator)*

SELECTMEN  
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.  
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.  
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE  
IMPACT: N/A

**Brief Explanation:** *This year's budget represents a \$20,840 decrease in operational costs but includes the new borrowing costs of \$59,000 for the recently completed water line replacement project for a net increase of \$38,160 or 5.39%. This loss water which historically has been as high as 21% is now at a manageable rate of 12%. This is the measure of the amount of water we treat to what we bill our customers and has a large impact on lowering the cost assessment of plant operations. Rates will increase slightly and yet still be lower than they were in 2009. In FY17 the Joint Water Authority has also authorized a proposed Capital Plan for repairs at the treatment plant. All monies raised come from the Water Enterprise Fund.*

**Article 11 Voted:** On motion of Bill Johnson, it was voted to appropriate the sum of \$745,930 to operate the Water Department for the fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2016, as set forth in the Advisory Board recommendations:

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Salaries               | \$168,807 |
| Expense                | \$156,536 |
| Water Filtration Plant | \$156,000 |
| Debt Service           | \$264,587 |
| Total                  | \$745,930 |

Majority "YES"

**ARTICLE 12:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to operate the Sewer Department for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Administrator)*

SELECTMEN  
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.  
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.  
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE  
IMPACT: N/A

**Brief Explanation:** *This year's budget for the third year in a row has decreased by \$17,632 or 2.02%. Gardner is looking to make some improvements/upgrades in the sewer system which will bring a series of rate increases to cover the costs. It is projected that we will see this*



***affect over the next four to five years. Although the budget has decreased this is the first year where the debt payments (\$279,260) are not offset by user assessment fees. This results in the revenue being raised by increased rates. In FY17 the rate will move to \$16.50 per hundred cubic feet. What this means to the rate payers is that they will be paying \$16.50 for every 748 gallons that they generate. Over the last 11 years this will mean an average of 1.9% per year. On the positive side, this debt payment's last year will be in 2019.***

**Article 12 Voted:** On motion of Bill Johnson, it was voted to appropriate the sum of \$853,308 to operate the Sewer Department for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, as set forth in the Advisory Board recommendation:

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Salaries             | \$126,596 |
| Expense              | \$130,119 |
| Sewer Transportation | \$317,333 |
| Debt Service         | \$279,260 |
| Total                | \$853,308 |

Majority "YES"

**ARTICLE 13:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds the sum of \$469,490 to fund the recommendation of the Capital Planning Committee to include the following:

| Line | Item   | Amount           |
|------|--|------------------|
| 1    | Fire employee (5)Turnout Gear - Replacement  | \$12,990         |
| 2    | Ford F-350 Truck – DPW-replaces 2007 vehicle   | \$39,000         |
| 3    | Fire truck Pumper-Tanker- three year lease to purchase – replaces 3 existing engines | \$190,000        |
| 4    | Road Repair – adds to Chapter 90 funding   | \$125,000        |
| 5    | Police Cruiser Car #5 – replaces 2013 cruiser  | \$42,500         |
| 6    | Traffic improvements to intersection at Williams and RT 101                          | \$60,000         |
|      | <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>\$469,490</b> |

and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a lease with an option to purchase for a term of three years for the fire truck pumper-tanker (Item #3), and to sell, trade in or dispose of any equipment being replaced, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Administrator)*

SELECTMEN  
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.  
RECOMMEND: YES

ADVISORY BD.  
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE  
IMPACT: N/A

**Brief Explanation:** *The Capital Planning Committee has developed a sustainable capital plan that can be funded within the raise and appropriated tax levy. This year's plan includes spending \$469,490. Revenue to offset cost for this article will come from Local Receipts.*

**Article 13 Voted:** On motion of Jamie Piedrafite, it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$469,490 to fund the capital items as presented in the article.

Unanimous "YES"

**ARTICLE 14:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by borrowing or otherwise, an amount not to exceed \$7,884,127 to be used for the design, construction and related costs associated with the construction of a new Department of Public Works (70%), Water (18%) and Sewer (12%) facility, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, be authorized to borrow a sum of money and to issue bonds or notes thereof under Chapter 44, Section 8, of the General Laws, or general authority; that such bonds or notes shall be general obligations of the Town and notes and charges shall be so established as to provide sufficient funds to ensure that the entire principal and interest payable on any borrowing associated with this project will be assessed to the users of the facility; that the Board of Selectmen be authorized to apply for, accept and expend, federal or state aid for the project, that the Treasurer, with approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow all or a portion of such amount from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and otherwise to contract with the USDA with respect to any such loan; and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to expend all funds available from the project and to take other action necessary to carry out this project; including but not limited to entering into any and all contracts on such terms and conditions as are in the best interest of the Town; provided, however, that the Board of Selectmen has determined that grants or other financial assistance are available from the Federal Government, the Commonwealth or any other source, which in the aggregate, will provide for the project costs, provided that no bonds or notes shall be issued unless the Town has voted at an election to exempt this expenditure from the provisions of Proposition 2½, so called, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Administrator)*

SELECTMEN  
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.  
RECOMMEND: YES

ADVISORY BD.  
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE  
IMPACT: N/A

***Brief Explanation:*** *This facility is the culmination of 11 years of work to remove and upgrade the DPW operations from the center of Town to an appropriate site. This facility will be built to meet all current state and local guidelines. Funding for the project will be supported proportionally with funds from the Town of 70%, Water (18%), and Sewer (12%) departments. It is currently estimated that the portion of the facility paid for by the Water & Sewer departments will obtain a 20% grant award from the USDA.*

**Article 14 Voted:** On motion of Kyle Johnson, it was voted to raise and appropriate by borrowing or otherwise, an amount not to exceed \$7,884,127 to be used for the design, construction and related costs associated with the construction of a new Department of Public Works (70%), Water (18%), and Sewer (12%) facility.

104 "YES" 65 "NO" Defeated/Did not get 2/3 Majority Vote

At 10:17 PM motion was made to reconsider 2/3 vote

70 "YES" 39 "NO" Defeated again/Did not get 2/3 Majority Vote

**ARTICLE 15:**

To see if the Town will vote to acquire, by purchase, eminent domain or otherwise as provided by the General Laws a parcel of land located at Williams and Turnpike Roads consisting of 17 acres, being the same land shown on Assessors Map 20, Parcel 51, for Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant (AMLPL) purposes, any and all costs and expenses, including but not limited to any damages awarded, attorneys’ fees, and engineering fees, associated with said acquisition to be paid by AMLP, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Light Board.)*

SELECTMEN  
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.  
RECOMMEND: YES

ADVISORY BD.  
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE  
IMPACT: N/A

**Brief Explanation:** *The Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant wishes to purchase the parcel of land that is immediately across Turnpike Road from the existing electrical substation which is owned by National Grid. AMLP currently uses this substation under a 30 year joint use agreement that was signed in 1996 and will be renegotiated in approximately nine years. There are a number of possible uses for this parcel of land, including as a potential location for grid battery storage (photovoltaic solar) within our system. It is also a possible site to relocate our substation equipment if for any reason we can’t negotiate a favorable joint use agreement renewal. The funding for this purchase will come entirely from AMLP monies, and no taxpayer funds will be used towards this purchase.*

**Article 15 Voted:** On motion of Mark Carlisle, it was voted to acquire, by purchase, eminent domain or otherwise as provided by the General Laws a parcel of land located at Williams and Turnpike Roads consisting of 17 acres for Light Department purposes.

Majority “YES”

**ARTICLE 16:**

To see if the Town will vote, to amend its General By-law by adding the following section to Chapter VII: Contracts by Town Officers:

Section 8: In accordance with the provisions of G.L., c. 60, Section 62A, the Treasurer is hereby authorized to enter into payment agreements with persons entitled to redeem parcels in tax title subject to the following terms and provisions; such agreements shall be for a maximum term of not more than five years and may waive not more than 50 per cent of the interest that has accrued on the tax title amount. *(Requested by the Citizen petition)*

SELECTMEN  
RECOMMEND: NO

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.  
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.  
RECOMMEND: NO

TAX RATE  
IMPACT: N/A

**Brief Explanation:** *(Citizen Petition)*

**ARTICLE 16:** Leo Janssens motioned to pass over article.

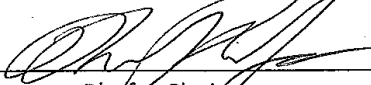
Unanimous “YES”

Meeting Adjourned at 10:25 PM

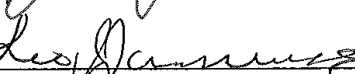
Respectfully Submitted,  
Michelle M. Johnson  
Town Clerk

And you are hereby directed to serve this warrant in accordance with the provisions of Section 3, Chapter II of the Town By-Laws by posting attested copies thereof as therein provided.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this Warrant with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk on or before the said day and hour of meeting.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Duncan Phye, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kyle Johnson, Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Leo Janssens, Member

ASHBURNHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN

A true copy, Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Constable

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date