

WARRANT

Town of Leverett
FY 2016 Annual Town Meeting
Saturday, May 2, 2015
9:00 A.M. Leverett Elementary School

Franklin, SS.

To one of the Constables of Leverett:
Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of Leverett, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet in the Elementary School auditorium, on Saturday the 2nd day of May, 2015, at 9:00 in the morning (9:00 A.M.), then and there to act on the following articles, namely:

Article One: To choose all necessary town officers to serve for periods prescribed by law or Town bylaw, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Two: To see if the Town will vote to have its elected position of Tree Warden become an appointed position to be appointed by the Selectboard for three year terms, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Three: To see if the Town will vote to have its elected position of Assistant Moderator become an appointed position to be appointed by the Moderator for three year terms, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Four: To see if the Town will vote to change the Code of Leverett as follows:

Chapter 3 Administration

Article 1 Elected Boards and Offices

3-2 Officers; terms

Change

from “Officers of the town to be elected for three-year terms of office shall be a Moderator, a Town Clerk and three (3) Constables. Officers to be elected for one-year terms of office shall be an Assistant Moderator and a Tree warden.”

to “Officers of the town to be elected for three-year terms of office shall be a Moderator, a Town Clerk and three (3) Constables. ~~Officers to be elected for one-year terms of office shall be an Assistant Moderator and a Tree warden.~~”

Or take any action relative thereto.

Article Five: To see if the Town will vote to set the salaries of elected officials as provided by MGL Chapter 41, Section 108, to be made effective from July 1, 2105 as presented in the budget, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Six: To see if the Town will vote to approve following the existing Amherst-Pelham Regional School District Agreement for allocating the total amount to be contributed by each member town of the District for Fiscal Year 2016 as required by Section VI of the Regional Agreement, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Seven: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds such sums of money as shall be necessary to meet Town expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Eight: To see if the Town will vote to reserve the following from FY 2016 Community Preservation Annual Fund revenues: \$17,507.47 for open space purposes (excluding recreational purposes); \$17,507.47 for historic resources; \$17,507.47 for community housing; and \$113,798.56 to the FY 2015 Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Reserve, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Nine: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$8,753.74 from FY 2016 Community Preservation Annual Fund revenues for administrative and operating expenses, including legal expenses, of the Leverett Community Preservation Committee, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Ten: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$8,200.00 from the Community Preservation Fund Balance reserved for Historic Resources to provide matching funds to the Leverett Crafts and Arts to pay for a *Building Master Plan/Historic Structures Report* for the 1903 Beaman and Marvel Box Shop building owned and occupied by the Leverett Crafts and Arts, or to take any action relative thereto.

Article Eleven: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$2,398.00 from the Community Preservation Fund Balance Reserved for Historic Resources for professional cleaning, conservation, restoration, and illumination of the portrait of Governor John Leverett, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Twelve: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a total of \$160,000 from the Community Preservation Funds, \$96,806.53 to come from the Fund Balance reserved for community housing, and \$63,193.47 to come from the Budgeted Reserve, to support the Affordable Housing Trust's Leverett Homeownership Assistance Program to create affordable community home ownership opportunities for income-eligible persons, or to take any action relative thereto.

Article Thirteen: To see if the Town will vote to change the Zoning Bylaws by changing Section 2340 Dimensional Schedule, by moving to change footnote 3 to read as follows: "Increase to 300 ft. in Aquifer Protection District for single-family in RV, RR, GB and to 200 feet in COM Districts and to 450 ft. in Aquifer Protection District for two-family structures in all districts." "And To remove footnote 4 where it appears under the "COM" column", or take any action relative thereto.

Article Fourteen (by petition): To see if the Town will vote to change the Zoning Bylaws by changing Section 2340 Dimensional Schedule. The change would be for footnote 4 to add in after 300 feet in the aquifer protection district “or 200 feet and 240,000 square lot area”, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Fifteen: To see if the town will vote to transfer the sum of \$5,450 from Free Cash to repoint the brick on the west wall of the Elementary School’s 1950 building, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Sixteen: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$3,000 from Free Cash to complete maintenance on the slate roof of the Elementary School and repair the double doors on the west side of the Elementary School, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Seventeen: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$6,600 from Free Cash to refinish the Town Hall floors, including repairing and replacing the floor in the Treasurer’s office, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Eighteen: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$5,000 from Free Cash for an actuarial valuation of the town’s Other Post-Employment Benefits Plan (retiree health/life insurance) for the period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2018, in accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement 45 (GASB 45), or take any action relative thereto.

Article Nineteen: To see if the Town will vote to have the Hampshire Council of Governments arrange to supply an all-green electrical product (wind, solar, low-impact hydro, etc.), for a price not to exceed 0.4¢/KwH above the cheapest cost, for municipal buildings or take any action relative thereto.

Article Twenty: To see if the Town will vote to have the Hampshire Council of Governments arrange to supply an all-green electrical product (wind, solar, low-impact hydro, etc.), for a price not to exceed 0.4¢/KwH above the cheapest cost, for residents in the town who are participating in the Town’s Municipal Aggregation program or take any action relative thereto.

Article Twenty-One: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to enter into a five-year contract with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and Waste Management Recycle America, LLC for recycling services at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility or take any action relative thereto.

Article Twenty-Two: To see if the town will vote to grant a reciprocal easement to all abutters of Cider Mill Road to pass and repass by foot or vehicle along Cider Mill Road; and that the Selectboard be authorized to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary on behalf of the Town of Leverett to affect such easement, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Twenty-Three: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds the sum of \$64,061 into the Stabilization Account to fund the Capital Plan, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Twenty-Four: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$42,465.26 from Free Cash to the Stabilization Account to reimburse Stabilization for the amount expended at the October 28, 2104 Special Town Meeting, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Twenty-Five: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds the sum of \$22,558 to reimburse the Elementary School for funds received from Medicaid for Special Education Costs, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Twenty-Six: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$419.61 from Bond Premiums Reserved to the Town Interest Account, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Twenty-Seven: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$533.86 from Bond Premiums Reserved and the sum of \$18,405.79 from the Reserved for School Debt Payment to the School Interest Account, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Twenty-Eight: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$1,692.29 from Free Cash to pay for Staples bills of prior years, or take any action in relation thereto.

Article Twenty-Nine: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$6,602.73 from Free Cash to pay for a deficit in the MBI grant funds account, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Thirty: To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize revolving funds for certain town departments under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44 Section 53E ½ for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 as presented in the accompanying table, or take any action relative thereto.

Revolving Fund	Who is Authorized To Spend	Revenue Source	Use	FY 2016 Spending Limit
Library	Library Director	Fees for copying and printing	Copier and printer expenses	\$1,000
Library	Library Director	Fines	Purchase books, audios & videos	\$3,000
Town Grounds Maintenance	Selectboard	Sale of plants, donations	Maintain town gardens & landscape town property	\$1,000
Fire Inspections	Fire Chief	Inspections	Fire Inspectors and fire inspection expenses	\$2,500
Home Composting Program	Transfer Station Administrator	Sale of compost bins and donations	Home composting bin distribution program expenses	\$1,000
Council on Aging	Council on Aging Chair	Fees and Donations	Costs associated with programs sponsored by the Council on Aging	\$3,000

Article Thirty-One: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to enter into contracts with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation for construction and/or maintenance of highways or other permissible expenditures from the Transportation Bond monies (Chapter 90) and authorize the Selectboard to accept any monies from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for highway construction and/or maintenance related work, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Thirty-Two (by petition):

We citizens of Leverett are deeply concerned about the proposed budget cuts of 3.5-8% for every town department due to a possible loss in tax revenue because of tax abatements and decreased revenues from the Commonwealth. We recognize that such deep cuts will result in a loss of services and personnel and we are concerned about the impact of those cuts, especially on Leverett's most vulnerable citizens. We have recently learned that, even at 3.5 %, the cuts will result in loss of monies to train and pay first responders; delayed repairs and replacement of highway department equipment and garage facilities; and personnel and material cuts from the elementary school. We would like the opportunity to vote on a budget override at Town Meeting to offset those lost revenues. We propose level funding all town services, aware that, with inflation, level funding is itself a form of budget cut. We would like to be able to vote on a Proposition 2 ½ override to prevent those 3.5% cuts. We request that you include such an override on the warrant at the 2015 Town Meeting, and that you work with the Finance Committee to accurately determine the percentage tax increase that will be needed to eliminate the proposed 3.5-8% budget cuts.

Given under our hands this 14th day of April, 2015.

SELECTBOARD OF LEVERETT

Richard P. Brazeau, Chair

Peter d'Errico

Julia Shively

A true copy I attest:

Lisa Stratford, Town Clerk

I have served this Warrant as directed therein:

Date: _____ Constable: _____