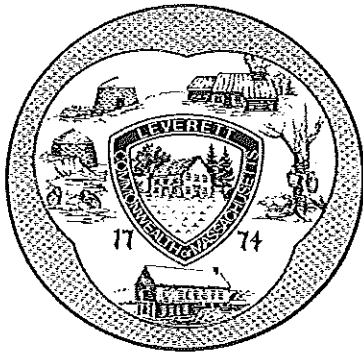


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4/15/21



WARRANT

Town of Leverett
FY 2022 Annual Town Meeting
Saturday, May 1, 2021
9:00 A.M. Leverett Elementary School
Outside

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 at the Elementary School, on Saturday the 1st day of May 2021, 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 amend Section VI of the Amherst Pelham Regional School District Agreement by adding subsection j) as follows: "For Fiscal Year 2022 only, the alternative operating budget assessment shall be calculated as 65% of a five-year average of minimum contributions with the remainder of the assessment allocated to the member towns in accordance with the per-pupil method found in Section VI e) of the Amherst Pelham Regional School District Agreement. The five-year average of minimum contributions will include the five most recent years."; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article Three: 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 Four: 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, 2021 as presented in the budget, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Five: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$200,000 from the Stabilization Account to purchase and equip a new single axle dump truck cab, chassis, dump body, sander and plow, or take any action relative thereto.

Needs 2/3 vote to pass

Article Six: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$8,000 from the Stabilization Account and vote to transfer the sum of \$20,419 from the unspent available fire rescue truck funds appropriated by Article 8 of the April 29, 2017 Annual Town Meeting to purchase and equip a new set of Jaws of Life for the Fire department, or take any action relative thereto.

Needs 2/3 vote to pass

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Article Seven: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$40,000 into the Stabilization Account to fund the Capital Plan, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Eight: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$10,000 from Free Cash to complete repairs to the old salt shed at the Public Safety Complex, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Nine: To see if the Town will vote to accept Mass General Laws Chapter 41, Section 19K Additional Compensation for Town Clerk and vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 for the Town Clerk's stipend, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Ten: To see if the Town will vote to reserve the following from FY 2022 Community Preservation Annual Fund revenues: \$_____ for open space purposes (excluding recreational purposes); \$_____ for historic resources; \$_____ for community housing; and \$_____ to the FY 2022 Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Reserve, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Eleven: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$4,500 from FY 2022 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 Twelve: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$12,500 from the Community Preservation Fund Balance reserved for Historic Resources to provide matching funds to the Leverett Historical Commission to continue its ongoing project "A Sense of Where You Are," or to take any action relative thereto.

Article Thirteen: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$28,491 from the Community Preservation Fund Balance Reserved for Historic Resources for the funding of a project of the Leverett Historical Society and the Leverett Historical Commission to inventory, archive and preserve the paper collections of the Moore's Corner Schoolhouse and the Field Family Museums, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Fourteen: To see if the Town will vote to rename the Revenue Committee to the Sustainable Economy Committee (SEC) and vote to extend the mandate of the renamed Committee for an additional two years, and in keeping with the Committee's mission for the past two years, vote to extend the Committee's original mandate to explore, examine, and recommend potential ongoing revenue opportunities to the Town of Leverett, to include the following activities for the promotion of sustainable economic development:

One, economic data collection, analysis, and forecasting, and consultation with community members, in order to recommend actions to the Leverett Selectboard and Finance Committee that are aligned with community values and the achievement of one or more economic objectives: revenue growth, cost cutting, or Town affordability and livability;

Two, support the Leverett Planning Board in the development and implementation of a Town Master Plan;

Three, organize and lead a business development subcommittee, with adjunct members from outside this Committee, in order to meet with property developers and businesses interests about opportunities in Leverett that are aligned with community values, economic objectives, citizen and stakeholder input, and the Master Plan.

The Selectboard shall appoint up to 9 individuals to the Sustainable Economy Committee, each appointment for a period of two years, or take any action relative thereto.

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Article Fifteen: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution, or take any action relative thereto:

A RESOLUTION TO RETAIN THE OPEN SPACE BETWEEN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND LIBRARY FOR RECREATIONAL AND EMERGENCY PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the location of the field (between the Elementary School and the Library) uniquely qualifies it as an ideal spot for outdoor community and sports events.

WHEREAS, said field has been utilized for such activities for many decades.

WHEREAS, the Town lacks any other centrally located open space that would lend itself to this use.

WHEREAS, the area has been identified as a landing field for emergency helicopters.

THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED, that any permanent change in use or structure to be added to the field needs to go to a town meeting for approval of the voters of the town prior to the change or structure being initiated.

Article Sixteen: To see if the Town will vote to update the Code of the Town of Leverett as outlined below, or take any action relative thereto:

Chapter 78: Dogs

Delete:

Provisions.

The town accepts the provisions of MGL chapter 140, section 147A to empower the town to enact by-laws and ordinances relative to the regulation of dogs.

78-1. Registering, numbering, fees.

The town establishes the following bylaw pursuant to MGL Chapter 140, Section 147A, but is in addition to.

Adopt:

Provisions.

The town accepts the provisions of MGL chapter 140, section 173 to empower the town to enact by-laws and ordinances relative to the regulation of dogs.

78-1. Registering, numbering, fees.

The town establishes the following bylaw pursuant to MGL Chapter 140, Section 173, but is intended to be in addition to the provisions of MGL Chapter 140, section 173.

Article Seventeen: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$ _____, which is the sum received from Medicaid for Special Education Cost at Leverett Elementary School as follows: \$ _____ to the OPEB trust account and \$2,000 to the FY 2022 operating budget of the Elementary School to cover expenses incurred for Medicaid reporting, or take any action relative thereto.

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Article Eighteen: To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize the following spending limits for the revolving funds for certain town departments under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44 Section 53E 1/2 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021, or take any action relative thereto:

Revolving Fund	Revenue Source	Use	Restrictions or Conditions on Expenditures
Library	Fees for copying and printing	Copier and printer expenses	Spending limit of \$1,000
Library	Fines	Purchase books, audios & videos	Spending limit of \$3,000
Town Grounds Maintenance	Sale of plants, donations	Maintain town gardens & landscape town property	Spending limit of \$1,000
Fire Inspections	Inspections	Fire Inspectors and fire inspection expenses	Spending limit of \$2,500
Home Composting Program	Sale of compost bins and donations	Home composting bin distribution program expenses	Spending limit of \$1,000
Council on Aging	Fees and Donations	Costs associated with programs sponsored by the Council on Aging	Spending limit of \$5,000

Article Nineteen: 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 Twenty: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements during Fiscal 2022 as permitted by M.G.L. c. 44, section 53F, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Twenty-One: To see if the Town will vote to allow the Selectboard to apply for, accept and expend state, federal and other grants, which do not require a town appropriation, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article Twenty-Two: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$10,000 from Account #712 for the Fiber Optic Network construction to the town debt principal account, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Twenty-Three: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$803.66 from Bond Premiums Reserved to the Town Interest Account, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Twenty-Four: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$941.22 from Bond Premiums Reserved for School Debt Payment to the School Interest Account, or take any action relative thereto.

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Article Twenty-Five (by petition): To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution, or take any action relative thereto:

A Resolution in Opposition to State Subsidies & Incentives for Biomass Plants

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Town of Leverett are committed to ensuring and safeguarding the health, safety, and environment of the residents of our community, and

WHEREAS, wood-burning biomass plants are a highly polluting form of energy generation, known to release pollutants including fine particulate matter, volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide, and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth adopted science-driven Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) regulations in 2012 recognizing that wood-burning power plants emit more carbon dioxide than fossil fuel power plants per unit of energy generated,

WHEREAS, due to the 2012 RPS regulations, the only wood-burning biomass plants eligible for Massachusetts renewable energy subsidies have been small, efficient combined-heat-and-power biomass plants, and

WHEREAS, if the weakened RPS regulations proposed in December 2020 by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) go into effect, Massachusetts subsidies and incentives would be available for inefficient large-scale biomass power plants, and

WHEREAS, the proposed RPS regulations would wrongly incentivize and directly subsidize the construction of a large-scale wood-burning biomass plant proposed by Palmer Renewable Energy in Springfield, an Environmental Justice community already heavily burdened by industrial air pollution and by record-setting rates of asthma and other respiratory illnesses, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Leverett stands in solidarity with the residents of the City of Springfield, and the Springfield City Council, which passed a resolution on December 21, 2020, opposing Massachusetts state subsidies and incentives for wood-burning biomass plants

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Leverett opposes any state subsidies or incentives for commercial wood-burning biomass plants in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Leverett calls upon the Massachusetts DOER to revise the proposed RPS regulations by returning the woody biomass provisions to their previous, science-based language, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Leverett calls upon the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy of the Massachusetts Legislature to hold an accessible public hearing on said proposed RPS regulations, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Leverett urges its State Legislative Delegation to support legislation in the forthcoming session of the Massachusetts General Court to remove and bar taxpayer and ratepayer incentives for commercial biomass power plants in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Representative Natalie Blais and Senator Jo Comerford, as well as Governor Charles Baker, DOER Commissioner Patrick Woodcock, and the Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy Committee, Senator Mike Barrett and Representative Jeff Roy.

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Article Twenty-Six (by petition): To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution, or take any action relative thereto:

Acknowledgment of our native forbears

Whereas the lands upon which the Town of Leverett was taken for settlement from the Nonotuck and Pocumtuck peoples, and

Whereas forms of land tenure, laws, economic arrangements, and ways of life that were alien to the original inhabitants were imposed on all who wished to here, and

Whereas, the injury and injustice perpetrated on the native peoples by the colonial enterprise blights our collective conscience, and

Whereas healing can only begin with acknowledgment of harms done.

Therefore, we propose that the Town of Leverett start every Town Meeting or Special Town Meeting with the reading of the following statement:

"We want to acknowledge that we live in part of Nonotuck and Pocumtuck territory intersecting the in place now called Leverett, and that we also acknowledge our neighbors, the many Native nations in our region, who have ties to Kwinitekw now called the Connecticut River."

And you are hereby directed to serve this Warrant by posting up attested copies thereof on the Post Office, in the Town Hall and Congregational Church at Leverett, the Baptist Church at North Leverett and the Village Co-op at Moores Corner, seven days at least before the day of said meeting.

Given under our hands this 13th day of April, 2021.

SELECTBOARD OF LEVERETT

Julia Shively, Chair

Thomas Hankinson

A true copy I attest:

Lisa Stratford, Town Clerk

I have served this Warrant as directed therein:

Date: _____ Constable: _____