



WARRANT

Town of Leverett
FY 2025 Annual Town Meeting
Saturday, April 27, 2024
9:00 A.M. Leverett Elementary School

Inside

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 27th day of April 2024, 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 replacing subsection j) as follows: "For Fiscal Year 2025 only, the alternative operating budget assessment shall be calculated as 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. Additionally, if any member town's assessment based on this method increases or decreases more than 8.2% from their Fiscal Year 2024 assessment, the Fiscal Year 2025 assessment shall be limited to an 8.2% change provided that the requirements of Minimum Local Contribution are still met. 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, 2024 as presented in the budget, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Five: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate an additional \$64,721 for the Amherst Pelham Regional School District's FY 25 budget, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Six: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$85,000 from the Stabilization Account to refurbish the Highway Department's 2001 KW 10-wheel dump truck, or take any action relative thereto.

Needs 2/3 vote to pass

Article Seven: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$6,500 from the Free Cash Account to purchase new assessing software and enhance the online information for property ownership information, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Eight: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$4,853 from the Free Cash Account to resolve a deficit in the police bulletproof vest account (account # 2922-000-5700-0000), or take any action relative thereto.

Article Nine: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$5,000 from the Free Cash Account to purchase and equip a new copier for the Town Hall, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Ten: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$5,930 from the Free Cash Account to install new rain gutters at the Leverett Library, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Eleven: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$4,500 from the Free Cash Account for the Historical Commission to conduct assessments of the preservation work completed at the North Cemetery, Moore's Corner Cemetery and the Mount Hope/Chestnut Hill Cemetery, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Twelve: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$11,000 from the Free Cash Account for the purpose of completing mosquito control activities in Leverett, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Thirteen: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Free Cash Account the sum of \$41,000 into the Stabilization Account to fund the Capital Plan, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Fourteen: To see if the Town will vote to reserve the following from FY 2025 Community Preservation Annual Fund revenues: \$22,500 (estimated) for open space purposes (excluding recreational purposes); \$22,500 (estimated) for historic resources; \$22,500 (estimated) for community housing; and \$153,000 (estimated) to the FY 2025 Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Reserve, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Fifteen: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$4,500 from FY 2025 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 Sixteen: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$24,500, from the Community Preservation Fund Balance reserved for Historic Resources to provide funds to the Friends of the North Leverett Sawmill (“FONLS”) to create an operational, fundraising, building assessment and design plan for the creation of a participatory technological and industrial history museum in the Slarrow Mill, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Seventeen: To see if the Town will vote to allow the funds remaining in the Affordable Housing Trust Account that were originally dedicated to the Leverett Down-Payment Assistance Program by Article 21 of the April 29, 2017 Annual Town Meeting and to the Leverett Homeownership Assistance Program by Article 22 of the April 29, 2017 Annual Town Meeting, to be used for any allowable use of Affordable Housing Trust. Monies subject to a grant agreement being executed between the CPC and the Trust, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Eighteen: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Free Cash Account the sum of \$15,092.67, which is the FY 23 total received from Medicaid for Special Education Cost at Leverett Elementary School as follows: \$13,092.67 to the OPEB trust account and \$2,000 to the FY 2024 operating budget of the Elementary School to cover expenses incurred for Medicaid reporting, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Nineteen: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$38,500.90 from the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund established by Article 20 of the April 2023 Annual Town meeting to an Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund and vote to close the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

Needs 2/3 vote to pass

Article Twenty: To see if the Town will vote the following changes to the “Code of Leverett”, or take any action relative thereto

New wording proposed is bolded with wording to be removed crossed out:

Chapter 24: Community Preservation Committee

24-1. Establishment

The Town of Leverett hereby establishes a Community Preservation Committee, consisting of seven (7) voting members pursuant to MGL Chapter 44B.

The composition of the committee, the appointment authority, and the term of office for the committee members shall be as follows:

- One member of the Conservation Commission as designated by the Commission for term of three years;
- One member of the Historical Commission as designated by the Commission for an initial term of one year and thereafter for a term of three years;
- One member of the Planning Board as designated by the Board for a term of three years;

- One member of the Recreation Commission as designated by the Commission for a term of three years;
- ~~One member to act in the capacity of, or perform like duties of, a member of a housing authority; this member is to be appointed by the Select Board for an initial term of one year and thereafter for a term of three years;~~
- One member of the Affordable Housing Trust as designated by the Trust for a term of three years;**
- Two community members at-large to be appointed for an initial term of one year and thereafter for a term of three years.

24-2. Duties

1. The Community Preservation Committee shall study the needs, possibilities, and resources of the town regarding community preservation. The Committee shall consult with existing municipal boards, including the Conservation Commission, the Historical Commission, the Planning Board, the Recreation Commission, and the ~~Housing Authority~~, **Affordable Housing Trust**, or persons acting in those capacities or performing like duties, in conducting such studies.

Article Twenty-One: 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-Two: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$389.03 from Bond Premiums Reserved to the Town Interest Account, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Twenty-Three: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$700.00 from Bond Premiums Reserved for School Debt Payment to the School Interest Account, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Twenty-Four: 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 ½ and the Town of Leverett Departmental Revolving Funds Bylaw adopted on 4/29/2017 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, 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 Twenty-Five: 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-Six: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements during Fiscal Year 2025 as permitted by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53F, or take any action relative thereto.

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

We, the undersigned, come before the Annual Town Meeting in the hope that now is the time when we, as a town, can support a resolution for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza in order to end the killing of innocents, and to provide for the basic needs of the people of Gaza. While recognizing the right of Israel to defend itself and to exist in safety, we wish to support the creation of an alternative to further decimation of the Gazan people.

We are proposing that Leverett follow the examples of Somerville, Cambridge, and Medford in eastern Massachusetts, of Amherst and Northampton in western Massachusetts, and of more than 70 cities across the country in relation to this resolution. Outlined below are some of the reasons why an immediate and permanent ceasefire is needed, and a cessation of Israel's military intention to continue its warfare in Gaza. In making this proposal we are expressing our desire to not be silent or complicit in witnessing the great harm being done to a people through actions that are justified by the 'right to self- defense,' but for which this right could be expressed in other less catastrophic ways. We believe that an alternative can be found to continued violence.

Why An Immediate and Permanent Cease Fire is Needed:

1. One quarter of the population in Gaza is now starving and the rest are suffering from deep hunger, and yet food and medical supplies are still being withheld at the borders, and those supplies that do get through cannot reach all the people in need because of repetitive bombing of thoroughfares.
2. More than eighty percent of the world's population living in famine areas is now located in Gaza.

3. Of the more than thirty thousand people now noted as deceased as a result of Israel's actions, nearly half of them are children.
4. More than sixty percent of the homes of Gazans have been totally destroyed, and 1.9 million people have been displaced, with most having no place to return to.
5. Clean drinking water is now almost inaccessible, or accessible only with great difficulty. Disease is rampant and is being promoted in this way.
6. Hospitals have been destroyed and medical supplies have disappeared so that pregnant women who have complex deliveries do not have emergency medical treatment available, and those with wounds to portions of their body due to the bombing, must undergo surgery without anesthesia.

In the presence of such great harm that is being enacted toward a people as a whole, we feel compelled to take a stand and say that these actions are against life itself, and against the furtherance of life for the Palestinian people. We must take this stand as a result of the promptings of our hearts and conscience, and ask that the Town of Leverett consider taking this stand as well. Moral accountability requires this of us, lest, through our silence, we give tacit support to that which must not go unaddressed.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Leverett, Massachusetts, proposes to the Biden Administration that this Administration take a strong moral and humanitarian stand in favor of an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza. While recognizing the right of Israel to defend itself and to exist in safety, we wish to see an end to the killing of innocents, and the creation of an alternative to further decimation of the Gazan people.

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 11th day of April, 2024.

SELECTBOARD OF LEVERETT

Thomas Hankinson, Chair

Melissa Colbert

Patricia Duffy

A true copy I attest:

Lisa Stratford, Town Clerk

I have served this Warrant as directed therein:

Date: _____ Constable: _____

The Town of Leverett does not discriminate based on disability and is committed to hosting accessible meetings. To request a reasonable accommodation to attend Town Meeting, please contact the municipal ADA Coordinator, Marjorie McGinnis at townadministrator@leverett.ma.us or 413-548-9699.