



WARRANT

Town of Leverett
FY 2024 Annual Town Meeting
Saturday, April 29, 2023
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 29th day of April 2023, 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 amend Section VI of the Amherst Pelham Regional School District Agreement by replacing subsection j) as follows: "For Fiscal Year 2024 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 4% from their Fiscal Year 2023 assessment, the Fiscal Year 2024 assessment shall be limited to a 4% 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 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, 2023 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 \$140,000 from the Stabilization Account to repave the parking areas near and around the Public Safety Complex and the Library, 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 \$86,000 from the Stabilization Account to purchase and equip a new or used brush truck for the Fire Department, 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 \$39,000 from the Stabilization Account to purchase and equip a new exhaust system for the Fire Department truck bays, or take any action relative thereto.

Needs 2/3 vote to pass

Article Eight: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$2,359 from the Free Cash Account for a new fire alarm system at the Leverett Library, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Nine: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$6,760 from the Free Cash Account to support activities of the ad hoc committee planning the Town 250th Anniversary celebration to take place in 2024, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Ten: 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 Eleven: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$26,700 from the Free Cash Account for the purpose of purchasing municipal accounting software, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Twelve: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$1,000 from the Free Cash Account for the purpose of heating the Field Building located at 1 Shutesbury Road, 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 transfer from the Free Cash Account the sum of \$9,923.51, which is the FY 22 total received from Medicaid for Special Education Cost at Leverett Elementary School as follows: \$7,923.51 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 Fifteen: To see if the Town will vote to reserve the following from FY 2024 Community Preservation Annual Fund revenues: \$_____ (estimated) for open space purposes; \$_____ (estimated) for historic resources; \$_____ (estimated) for community housing; and \$_____ (estimated) to the FY 2024 Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Reserve, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Sixteen: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$4,500 from FY 2024 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 Seventeen: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$82,082; \$_____ from the Community Preservation Fund Balance reserved for Open Space/Recreation, and \$_____ from the Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Reserve to provide funds to the Friends of the North Leverett Sawmill ("FONLS") to pay for the development of a "Heritage Park and Nature Trail" on 2.6 acres of land owned by the FONLS and subject to an open space recreation preservation restriction held by the Town of Leverett adjacent to the Slarrow Mill in North Leverett and 2.0 acres of adjacent land owned by the Town and subject to an open space recreation preservation restriction held by the FONLS, or to take any action relative thereto.

Article Eighteen: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the grant of funds to Kestrel Land Trust, Inc. to purchase or otherwise acquire for conservation and passive recreation purposes, as provided by the Community Preservation Act, the fee interest in 91 acres of land located between Depot Road and Long Hill Road, known as "The Heronemus Forest Conservation Project," to appropriate \$81,000; \$_____ from the Community Preservation Fund Balance reserved for Open Space/Recreation and \$_____ from the Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Reserve for said acquisition purpose, to authorize the Conservation Commission as provided by MGL Chapter 40, Section 8C to accept the donation of a conservation restriction as defined in MGL Chapter 184, Section 31 on said 91 acres, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Nineteen: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from FY 23 Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$450 for open space purposes; the sum of \$450 for historic resources; and the sum of \$450 community housing to correct underfunded FY 23 set asides, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Twenty: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.40, §5B, to create a new special purpose stabilization fund, to be known as the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund, which may be expended for all of the purposes allowed by law, including those outlined in applicable opioid-litigation settlement documents, a document prepared by the Substance Abuse Bureau of the Commonwealth's Office of Health and Human Services Department, found at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-abatement-terms/download> entitled "Abatement Strategies", and consistent with any state guidelines or regulations further clarifying allowable uses of opioid litigation settlement funds; and further, to adopt the last paragraph of said §5B and dedicate to such fund, without further appropriation, 100% of the opioid litigation settlement funds received by the Town; and further, to transfer from the Free Cash Account the sum of \$17,481 which has already been received and all future funds to be received by the Town from opioid litigation settlements resulting from the Town's participation in the national Opioid Multi-District Litigation into said Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Needs 2/3 vote to pass

Article Twenty-One: To see if the Town will vote to rescind the authorization to borrow the sum of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) granted by Article 16-2 of the Annual Town Meeting held on April 27, 2019 to install a series of new wells for the houses located downgradient of the Leverett capped landfill, or take any 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.

Article Twenty-Five: 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, 2023, 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
Recycling Program	Income from recycling entities and donations	Programs sponsored by the Transfer Station	Spending limit of \$3,000
Council on Aging	Fees and Donations	Costs associated with programs sponsored by the Council on Aging	Spending limit of \$5,000

Article Twenty-Six: 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-Seven: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements during Fiscal 2024 as permitted by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53F, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Twenty-Eight: 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-Nine: To see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution (Selectboard Article):

To see if the Town will vote to petition the state legislature to grant noncitizen permanent residents (Resident Aliens) in the Town of Leverett the ability to vote in all Leverett town meetings, elections and actions and to serve on elected Leverett municipal boards and committees, or take any action in relation hereto.

Article Thirty: To see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution (by petition):

Leverett Indigenous History, Culture, and Land Acknowledgment

Introduction to proposed resolution

We acknowledge the Town of Leverett is located on or near the ancestral lands of the Pocumtuck, Nonotuck, and Nipmuc people. Leverett is located in the Kwinitekw (Kwin-eh-tek-wuh) (Connecticut River) Valley, a crossroads of multiple Native nations.

This is still their homeland. Their voices are in the air we breathe. They are still here.

We give thanks and acknowledge that we are standing on land that Indigenous peoples stewarded for generations. The colonization of this area led to the displacement of these Native peoples.

We need to learn and relearn to listen to Native voices as they teach us, guide us, and remind us how to live in balance and reciprocity. This is the critical part of building relationships.

We have been taught by Indigenous elders that we should be grateful and thankful for all that we have been given - the land, the waters, and all creations. We have been given all these things, we do not need to ask for anything. What will we do with what we have been given?

Acknowledgment is not enough. It is a first step in community and self-education. This is just a beginning.

This is now – what will we do now?

Adapted with appreciation from the work of David Brule, the President of the Board of Directors of the Nolumbeka Project .<https://nolumbekaproject.org/>

Resolution: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution or take any action thereto:

We propose that at the start of every Leverett Town Meeting this "Leverett Indigenous History, Culture and Land Acknowledgement" be read. The reading will be followed by a description of the actions taken and programs presented in the past year as well as proposals for the coming year. What will we do now?"

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 19th day of April, 2023.

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: _____