

Annual Town Meeting (May 15, 2023)

<p>Article 1 - Receive Reports of Town Officers/Committees</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 2 - Appropriate and Establish Celebration Fund - 300th Anniversary - MGL Ch. 44 Sec. 53i</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes - As we get closer to celebrating Shrewsbury's 300th birthday, I am excited to see our community come together to honor the Town's past and look to our future. Money that goes into this fund is expected to come from donations.</p>
<p>Article 3 - Wright & Harlow Trust</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 4 - Special Legislation Granting Property Tax Exemption for Domicile of Ava Roy</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes - I was proud to vote for this Article to support the Roy family. I am proud of Shrewsbury's commitment to our public safety and their families.</p>
<p>Article 5 - Prior Year Bills</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes - \$4.6K administration services were invoiced to the town in September '22.</p>
<p>Article 6 - Adjust FY23 Operating Budget</p> <p>*Substitute Motion Passed</p>	<p>Yes - Several transfers were needed to fund unforeseen costs due to inflationary pressures. The transfers totalled \$489K.</p>
<p>Article 7 - Fund Override Stabilization Account</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes - \$1M was deposited into the Override Stabilization Fund. The balance now is \$7.1M. This Fund will help us with fiscal stability for the next few years, and I am pleased that the Select Board and the School Committee have been able to keep their promise to the community, as well as extending the use of the funds for an additional year. Once these funds begin to be drawn upon, we will need to have open and honest conversations again with the community about our fiscal projections in the next several years, and make sure that the community is up to speed on what our needs are.</p>
<p>Article 8 - FY24 Operating Budget - General Fund</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes - I am pleased to see that we continue to fully fund and expand on several of the key services in town. This is, in part, thanks to the operational override that the voters approved several years ago. I am happy to see new positions being funded with this budget, including 1 Lt. in the Police Dept., a Recreation Coordinator, and 4 firefighters. I am thankful to the team for this budget, which is directly tied to the Strategic Plan that was set out for us by the community, and I was happy to vote in favor of it.</p>

<p>Article 9 - Offset Levy - CATV Funds</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 10 - Offset Levy - Light Funds</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 11 - Offset Levy - Free Cash</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 12 - FY24 Operating Budget - Solid Waste Enterprise</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 13 - FY24 Operating Budget - Sewer Special Revenue Fund</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 14 - FY24 Operating Budget - Water Enterprise</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 15 - FY24 Operating Budget - Stormwater Enterprise</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 16 - FY24 Operating Budget - PEG Access</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 17 - Medical Expenses of Retired Disabled Police Officers and Firefighters</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes - 5 individuals were covered under this Article.</p>
<p>Article 18 - Fund Insurance Trust Account</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 19 - Fund General Stabilization Account</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes - \$675K was transferred into the rainy-day fund. Right now the fund has \$5.76K, which is 4.99% of the municipal and school operating budget. The Select Board's policy for the fund is to be at 5% of the annual operating budget.</p>
<p>Article 20 - Fund Sewer Stabilization Account</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>

<p>Article 21 - Fund Water Stabilization Account</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 22 - Set Spending Limits for Revolving Accounts</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 23 - Chapter 90 Local Transportation Aid</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 24 - Transfer Funds Sale of Cemetery Lots</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 25 - Funding for Lakes and Ponds</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 26 - Fund Youth and Family Services</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes - The \$225K appropriation made at Town Meeting is in addition to the \$127K of ARPA funds that SYFS will receive in FY24.</p>
<p>Article 27 - Capital Improvement Plan - General Fund</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes - This \$1.9m Capital budget included resources for the Police Dept., including body cams, AEDs for cruisers, and a hybrid replacement cruiser.</p>
<p>Article 28 - Capital Improvement Plan - Sewer</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 29 - Capital Improvement Plan - Stormwater</p> <p>Defeated</p>	<p>No - There were no capital projects proposed to be funded through the Stormwater Capital budget.</p>
<p>Article 30 - Capital Improvement Plan - Water - Borrowing Authorization</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes - This Article included a \$12m borrowing authorization to fund capital expenditures to improve the water system for over the next few years. This debt-funded approach will be better for ratepayers moving forward as the increases will be more stable. It will also help the Town address water-quality issues (specifically PFAS) as we look to expand the water treatment plant. This is a necessary investment to ensure that our water is safe and clean for consumers.</p>
<p>Article 31 - Appropriate for Oak Middle School Windows - (Transfer from Beal and Borrowing Authorizations)</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes - This \$3.9m authorization is necessary for the replacement of the Oak windows. The MSBA is expected to reimburse the Town 52.26% of the cost for the project. \$1.4m is funded by remaining funds from the Beal School Construction project, and the \$455K was approved at the May '22 Town Meeting.</p>

<p>Article 32 - Fund Expansion of Cemetery 65 Prospect Street</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes - Approximately 20 acres of land from Prospect Park will be used for this expansion. With the cemetery nearing capacity, it is important that we fund this project so that we can continue to allow residents in this community the option to lay their loved ones in town. The remainder of Prospect Park will be protected (due to the following Article), so no more expansion will move onto Prospect that folks utilize for recreation.</p>
<p>Article 33 - Designate Balance of Prospect Park for Park Purposes</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes - Many folks in town utilize Prospect Park for recreation, and I was happy to vote in favor of designating the rest of the park for park purposes. This will protect the land in perpetuity, and will ensure that people in town will always have a recreation space here that they can enjoy. It also allows the Town to invest in this space a bit more and keep up with it since it previously was not officially designated as a Park.</p>
<p>Article 34 - Citizens Petition - Rescind Land Disposition Authority 1-7 Maple Ave</p> <p>The Moderator & Town Council declared this Article out of order</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>Article 35 - FY2024 CPA Funding Transfer and Reserves</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes - I was thrilled to support all of the CPA initiatives because each project in their respects will help Shrewsbury be a place that is mindful of its history, invests in its open spaces, and creates affordable housing. I look forward to seeing more CPA projects in the future as the CPC continues their work in evaluating and guiding petitioners through the process.</p>
<p>Article 36 - CPA Project 1: Historic Preservation: \$65K - HVAC System 1830 Brick Schoolhouse - SELCO</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 37 - CPA Project 2: Historic Preservation: \$1,994 - Facility Accessibility Review of District #5 Schoolhouse - Historical Society</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 38 - CPA Project 3: Historic Preservation: \$85.5K Assessment for Rehab of Prospect Park Pergola - DPW</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 39 - CPA Project 4: Historic Preservation: \$5.5K Assessment and Preservation of Historic Headstones - Mt. View Cem. - DPW</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Passed	
Article 40 - CPA Project 5: Open Space & Rec: \$40K Designer Services Arrowood Park Playground - DPW Passed	Yes
Article 41 - CPA Project 6: Open Space & Rec: \$70K Town-wide Playground Assessment as well as Restoration of the Playground at Edgemere Park - DPW Passed	Yes
Article 42 - CPA Project 7: Budget Reserve: \$375K Reconstruction of the Dean Park Basketball Courts - DPW Passed	Yes
Article 43 - CPA Project 8: Budget Reserve: \$141,822.81 Parking Lot for Camp Wunnegan - DPW Passed	Yes
Article 44 - CPA Project 9: Acquire Lake Street & Grove Street Properties for Open Space Passed	Yes
Article 45 - Acquire Access Easement over 439 Lake Street Passed	Yes
Article 46 - Fyrbeck & Cutler Funding and Public Way Acceptance Passed	Yes
Article 47 - Street Acceptance: Cypress Avenue, Glendale Avenue, Oak Meadow Circle Passed	Yes
Article 48 - Fund Emergency Medical Services	Yes - EMS is critical, and although we have benefited from our partnership with UMass for the last several

<p>Study</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>years for free, we eventually will need to pay for this service starting July 1st, '24. This study will help us assess our best way forward to make sure that we continue to provide quality services to people in (and around) Shrewsbury.</p>
<p>Article 49 - General Bylaw Adjust AHT to Town Manager or Designee from “or ATM”</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 50 - General Bylaw: Establish Local Wetlands Protection Bylaw</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 51 - Zoning Bylaw Adjustment 1: Section VI - Non-Gasoline Sales Footnote</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes - I believe this Zoning adjustment will allow us to expand our commercial tax base. Even though it may seem small, any way we can expand the tax base alleviates the pressures that our residents feel in their taxes.</p>
<p>Article 52 - Zoning Bylaw Adjustment 2: Section II & VI - Adult Day Health Definition</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 53 - Zoning Bylaw Adjustment 3: Route 20 Overlay Regarding Equipment Rentals</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 54 - Zoning Bylaw Adjustment 4: Energy Storage</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>