

Annual Town Meeting (May 21, 2022)

<p>Article 1 (To receive the report from the Beal Early Childhood Center Building Committee) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 2 (To amend the General Bylaws to change the parliamentary procedure of Town Meeting from <i>Cushing's Manual to Town Meeting Time</i>) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes - This will allow for Town Meeting Members, especially newly elected ones, to follow the procedures of Town Meeting in an easier way. This will help the body be more accessible to those who wish to become Town Meeting Members themselves.</p>
<p>Article 3 (To transfer a sum of money from Free Cash to pay departmental bills contracted in the previous fiscal year) *Defeated</p>	<p>No - There were no bills to pay</p>
<p>Article 4 (To amend the Classification and Compensation Plan and the consolidated Personnel Bylaw) *Defeated</p>	<p>No - There were no transfers needed to be made.</p>
<p>Article 5 (To establish the \$138,433,515 FY23 operating budget) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes - Again, I am thankful that the voters of the Town made the decision to invest in their community with the operational override, which will continue to help us in the next few fiscal years. I am especially pleased at the investments that the School Dept. is putting into mental health priorities, since the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated our healthcare professionals and highlighted the incredible need for mental health.</p>
<p>Article 6 (To accept \$800,000 from SELCO - CATV Funds to offset operating expenses and lower the burden on the tax rate) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes -</p>
<p>Article 7 (To accept \$237,569 from SELCO - Light Funds to offset operating expenses and lower the burden on the tax rate) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 8 (To accept \$500,000 from Free Cash to offset operating expenses and lower the burden on the tax rate) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 9 (To place \$3M into the Override Stabilization Fund) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes - These funds will be used in future years to help alleviate budgetary pressures and obligations for the next few fiscal years, as promised to the</p>

	voters when the Override was placed before them. The fund now has a little over \$6.2M for future use.
Article 10 (FY23 General Capital Improvement Plan - \$1,463,161) *Passed	Yes - I was pleased to see more capital investments into new voting machines for the Town Clerk. I was also pleased to see the Town's investment into hybrid vehicles for the Police Dept., which will help the Dept. phase into an all hybrid fleet.
Article 11 (FY23 Solid Waste Enterprise Operating Budget - \$2,632,332) *Passed	Yes
Article 12 (FY23 Sewer Special Revenue Fund Operating Budget - \$6,773,069) *Passed	Yes
Article 13 (FY23 Sewer Capital Improvement Plan - \$2,583,352) *Passed	Yes
Article 14 (FY23 Water Enterprise Operating Budget - \$2,978,297) *Passed	Yes
Article 15 (FY23 Water Capital Improvement Plan - \$1,447,739) *Passed	Yes
Article 16 (FY23 Stormwater Enterprise Operating Budget - \$1,226,056) *Passed	Yes
Article 17 (FY23 Stormwater Capital Improvement Plan - \$479,943) *Passed	Yes
Article 18 (To fund the replacement of the windows at Oak Middle School - \$950,000) *Passed	Yes - The current windows are about 40 years old, and are mechanically and energy inefficient. The MSBA program will cover 52.26%, and this vote is to show that we can afford the entire project if we need to in order for MSBA to approve their share of the project.
Article 19 (To pay the medical expenses of retired disabled police officers and firefighters - \$6,464) *Passed	Yes

<p>Article 20 (To transfer \$20K from Free Cash to the Insurance Trust Fund) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 21 (To transfer \$750K from Free Cash to the General Stabilization Account) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes - This will bring our Stabilization Account to about 2.75% of the operating budget. The current policy is to have 5% in reserves. This is separate from the Override Stabilization Account</p>
<p>Article 22 (FY23 CATV PEG Access Operating Budget - \$395,027) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes - These funds will be transferred to Shrewsbury Media Connection, the non-profit that has historically filmed and produced all public meetings. Having SMC in town is a great asset to the community, and I am thankful for their work in keeping the community informed of Town happenings.</p>
<p>Article 23 (To set the spending limits for the Council on Aging Transportation Fund - \$75K; Donahue Rowing Center - \$400K) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 24 (To accept \$989,277 in Chapter 90 funds for local transportation aid) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 25 (To transfer \$18K from the Sale of Cemetery Lots account to the Cemetery Department) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 26 (To transfer \$30K from Free Cash to fund the management of lakes, ponds, and waterways within the Town) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes - These monies are generally transferred to the Lake Quinsigamond Commission, but this allows for more flexibility to address other areas of need in the Town.</p>
<p>Article 27 (To transfer \$140K from Free Cash to fund the development of a Climate Action and Resiliency Plan) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes - I am proud to support this Article because local, state, and the federal government need to do their part to address the threat of climate change. The plan that is developed will only be applied to the Town, and will not require private citizens to change. I am eager to watch this as it develops.</p>
<p>Article 28 (To transfer \$230K from Free Cash to fund the development and implement recommendations of a Town Center Comprehensive Transportation and Multimodal Study)</p>	<p>Yes - I am thrilled to support this plan because as the Town works to revitalize the Town Center, we need to improve all of the ways that folks use to get through the Center. This study will work</p>

<p>*Passed</p>	<p>alongside the traffic study already being conducted for the Town Center for the new development at the old Beal property. This study will also be larger than the Town Center zoning district, which is important if we want to address the concerns of those that would be impacted by any developments in the Town Center.</p>
<p>Article 29 (Community Preservation Committee financials)</p> <p>*Passed</p>	<p>Yes - As the CPC kicks into gear, I am eager to hear the recommendations that they offer in future Town Meetings to help improve the quality of life in town.</p>
<p>Article 30 (To amend the Zoning Bylaws to be more inline with state statute related to non-conforming uses and structures)</p> <p>*Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 31 (To amend the Zoning Bylaws to require proposed slopes of certain height and grade to be subject to Site Plan Approval by the Planning Board)</p> <p>*Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 32 (To amend the Zoning Bylaws to authorize the Town Clerk to make non-substantive, administrative changes to the numbering/lettering of the Zoning Bylaw)</p> <p>*Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 33 (To amend the Zoning Bylaws to further define and regulate the uses of common driveways)</p> <p>*Passed</p>	<p>Yes - This Article will help keep Common Driveways regulated in a way so that developers don't create this to skirt around creating a subdivision road, which are built with a higher standard than common driveways.</p>
<p>Article 34 (To amend the Zoning Bylaws to remove the requirement to provide screening between two or more lots when those lots are used for industrial purposes or are within the Limited Industrial Zoning District)</p> <p>*Passed</p>	<p>Yes - The Planning Dept. found the enforcement of the requirement to be difficult, and that the existing screening requirements between industrial uses to be unnecessary.</p>
<p>Article 35 (To amend the Zoning Bylaws to allow for building up to 75 feet to be built by special permit, and to allow for loading/unloading at the front of the buildings by special permit in the Limited Industrial District)</p> <p>*Passed</p>	<p>Yes - This will allow more flexibility in our Limited Industrial District to attract more modern and Class A uses. The special permitting process also will allow the Town to still have oversight into any new developments, which will help abutters throughout the process.</p>

<p>Article 36 (To amend the Zoning Bylaws to add the Town of Shrewsbury Tree Bylaw)</p> <p>*Passed</p>	<p>Yes - I was thrilled to support the creation of this Bylaw to help Shrewsbury continue to become a more green community. This Article will enable the Town to maintain the care and planting of trees. This will also help the Town become a Tree City, which opens us up for more grant opportunities.</p>
<p>Article 37 (To create a Tax Relief Fund)</p> <p>*Passed</p>	<p>Yes - Donations to this fund will be voluntarily made by taxpayers in the community, and will benefit those who qualify each fiscal year.</p>
<p>Article 38 (To increase the amount of the credit issued under statutory exemptions already in place under MGL Chapter 59, Sec. 5C ½ by 100%)</p> <p>*Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 39 (To allow the Board of Assessors to increase the income and asset limit to applicants for a statutory exemption under MGL Chapter 59, Sec. 5, Clause 41D)</p> <p>*Passed</p>	<p>Yes - This will allow the applicants to make more money, which will in turn increase the number of residents who may qualify.</p>
<p>Article 40 (To allow the Board of Assessors to increase the income and asset limit to applicants for a statutory exemption under MGL Chapter 59, Sec. 5, Clause 17E)</p> <p>*Passed</p>	<p>Yes - This will allow the applicants to have more assets, which will in turn increase the number of residents who may qualify.</p>
<p>Article 41 (To increase the base Cost of Living Adjustment granted to Town Retirees to \$14,000)</p> <p>*Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 42 (To increase the disability pensions of retirees to 50% of the current salary of the position from which they are retired)</p> <p>*Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 43 (To transfer 102 parcels of land from the care of the Tax Title Custodian to the Town Manager's Office)</p> <p>*Passed</p>	<p>Yes - While these parcels are extremely small, this will provide the Town Manager's office to utilize these parcels for the benefit of the community. Further studies will be conducted to determine how best to utilize the land.</p>
<p>Article 44 (To dispose of parcels of land located at 12 Cedar St., 25 Harvard Ave., 33 Eaton Ave, and 210 North Quinsig Ave)</p> <p>*Passed</p>	<p>Yes - A public and competitive process will take place to dispose of these lands. These properties had encroachments from the abutters, and the Town does not wish to get into any legal battles with property owners over the land</p>

<p>Article 45 (To accept the alteration of Lake Street and to accept Commerce Road as a public way) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 46 (To submit a home rule petition to change the name of the Board of Selectmen to the Selectboard) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes - I was happy to support this Article to have a more gender neutral term for our chief executive body. Other communities across the Commonwealth have already made this change, and I am pleased to see Shrewsbury head in that direction as well.</p>
<p>Article 47 (To appoint the Trustees of the Write and Harlow Charitable Trust Fund) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 48 (To transfer the authority of the Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Westborough for Sewer Treatment operations from Town Meeting to the Board of Selectmen) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes - Any appropriations will still go through Town Meeting.</p>