

## Annual Town Meeting (May 22, 2021)

<p>Article 1 (To receive the report of the Beal Early Childhood Center Building Committee) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 2 (FY21 budget transfer of \$4,332.12 from Stormwater - Other Charges and Expenditures to Stormwater - Personnel) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 3 (To establish a Special Purpose Override Stabilization Fund)  *Passed</p>	<p>Yes - I was excited to support this Article to help manage the funds that were raised with the passage of the override. This will create a special fund to be drawn from when we need it across the next few fiscal years to balance the budget and fund initiatives in the Operating Budget.</p>
<p>Article 4 (To appropriate \$3,132,074 into the Override Stabilization Fund)  *Passed</p>	<p>Yes - Again, I was excited to vote in favor of this Article to place these funds in reserve so that we may draw from it when we need it rather than spending the total value of the override in one fiscal year.</p>
<p>Article 5 (FY22 Operating Budget - \$137,881,286)  *Passed</p>	<p>Yes - This Operating Budget was a lot more favorable this year thanks to the override that the voters passed in May. Because of the community's commitment, the Town is able to fund the excellent services that residents have come to expect, especially for the school's operations.</p>
<p>Article 6 (Offset Levy - CATV Funds - \$800,000) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 7 (Offset Levy - Light Funds - \$237,569) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 8 (Offset Levy - Free Cash - \$500,000) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 9 (To raise and appropriate \$6,921 to pay the medical expenses of retired disabled police officers and firefighters) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 10 (FY22 Solid Waste Operating Budget - \$2,405,995) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Article 11 (FY22 Sewer Operating Budget - \$6,697,947) *Passed	Yes
Article 12 (FY22 Sewer Capital Budget - \$2,087,500) *Passed	Yes
Article 13 (FY22 Water Operating Budget - \$2,828,303) *Passed	Yes
Article 14 (FY22 Water Capital Budget - \$1,901,745) *Passed	Yes
Article 15 (FY22 Stormwater Operating Budget - \$1,357,205) *Passed	Yes
Article 16 (FY22 Stormwater Capital Budget - \$500,000) *Passed	Yes
Article 17 (FY22 Capital Budget - \$1,941,360) *Passed	Yes
Article 18 (To transfer \$750,000 from Free Cash to the General Stabilization Fund ) *Passed	Yes
Article 19 (To set the spending limits for the Council on Aging Transportation Fund to \$75,000 and the Donahue Rowing Center to \$400,000) *Passed	Yes
Article 20 (FY22 CATV PEG Access Operating Budget - \$403,186) *Passed	Yes
Article 21 (To accept \$989,636 from the Commonwealth and to transfer those funds to the Highway Dept. - Chapter 90 Funds) *Passed	Yes
Article 22 (To transfer \$18,000 from the Sale of Cemetery Lots account to the Cemetery Dept.) *Passed	Yes
Article 23 (To fund bills incurred in previous fiscal years) *Defeated	No - There are no bills to be paid.

<p>Article 24 (To rescind the excess borrowing authorization of \$2,958,000 for the library expansion )</p> <p>*Passed</p>	<p>Yes - The project came in under budget, which is a benefit for Shrewsbury taxpayers, and rescinding this excess helps benefit the Town during the bond rating process.</p>
<p>Article 25 (To rescind the excess borrowing authorization of \$1,910, 969 for the new water treatment plant)</p> <p>*Passed</p>	<p>Yes - Again, this project came in under budget, and rescinding this excess amount helps the Town during the bond rating process.</p>
<p>Article 26 (To accept the identified section and clause of the Mass. General Laws in order to provide a \$500 annual tax exemption for residential property owners of the Town who are qualified as blind.)</p> <p>*Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 27 (To amend the Personnel Bylaw)</p> <p>*Passed</p>	<p>Yes - This amendment includes Juneteenth as a paid holiday for Town personnel, adds “Indigenous People’s Day/Columbus Day” to the calendar, creates a formal introductory period of 6 months for new employees and transfers/promotions, and updates the sick time/ bereavement policies to require proper documentation. These changes are positive, and reflect the Town’s commitment to be more inclusive as it moves forward, and thus I was very happy to support this. Further examination should occur in order to see whether or not “Columbus Day” should still be included in the calendar. I would support its removal, but would like to see this studied further and for more discussion to be had here in Town regarding that issue.</p>
<p>Article 28 (To amend the General Bylaws, Article 2 - Town Meeting)</p> <p>*Passed</p>	<p>Yes - These changes allow for more flexibility at Town Meeting, and will make the meetings more efficient by using the methods we adapted to during the COVID-19 Pandemic. A consent agenda, bundling Articles together, and other changes to the Bylaw will shorten the length of time it takes for us to conduct business into one day rather than across several nights, like before. These changes might also encourage folks to run for Town Meeting, as it decreases the time commitment necessary to conduct business.</p>

<p>Article 29 (To establish the Community Preservation Committee in the General Bylaws)</p> <p><b>Substituted Motion: To require the 4 at-large members be Elected rather than Appointed by the Selectmen - Defeated: Yes - 60, No - 101)</b></p> <p><i>*Passed</i></p>	<p><b>Yes</b> (Substituted Motion - <b>Yes</b>) - I was a strong proponent of the CPA when we voted on it in 2020. The establishment of the Committee begins the process of seeing CPA projects at future Town Meetings. I supported the proposed amendment because I think there is a great benefit to having these members be accountable to the people that voted to adopt the CPA. Giving the community a more immediate and direct mechanism to be involved in the CPA process increases transparency and accountability. This also gives the public more opportunities to serve the community, though this can be said for the position in general regardless of whether or not it is appointed or elected. As we see how the CPC operates in the next few years, I would like to revisit this.</p>
<p>Article 30 (To establish an Affordable Housing Trust in the General Bylaws)</p> <p><i>*Passed</i></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p>Article 31 (To update Section IV.B.1 of the Zoning Bylaws to exclude non-conforming single and two-family homes from the restriction that a dwelling cannot expand by more than fifty percent)</p> <p><i>*Passed</i></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p>Article 32 (To amend Section VII.C - Accessory Uses in the Zoning Bylaws by converting it to a table format to increase clarity)</p> <p><i>*Passed</i></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p>Article 33 (To change the zoning of several small portions of land at various locations around the Town Center Zoning District to Residence B-1 and Residence B-2 where applicable)</p> <p><i>*Passed</i></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p>Article 34 (Citizens petition to pass a resolution declaring an Ecological and Climate Emergency)</p> <p><i>*Passed</i></p>	<p><b>Yes</b> - I was very excited to vote in favor of this Article. Acknowledging climate change is only the first step, and it must be followed by action at all levels of our government. Thankfully in recent years the Town has made more commitments to be more green and environmentally conscious.</p>

<p>Article 35 (Citizens petition to establish term limits to the Board of Selectmen and School Committee)</p> <p><b>*Defeated</b></p>	<p><b>No</b> - I do not believe in removing the power of choice from voters, and thus do not support term limits. The power of self government is derived from the people, and ultimately they should be the ones to decide how long an elected official serves. If they so choose to re-elect someone to the same position, then they ought to have that right to do so. Every year voters are given the power to elect 1/3 of the elected positions of the Town, which gives them plenty of opportunity to elect leaders who will bring in new ideas to Town.</p>
<p>Article 36 (Citizens petition to pass a resolution to remove fluoride from our Town's drinking water supply)</p> <p><b>*Defeated</b></p>	<p><b>No</b></p>
<p>Article 37 (To send to the Mass. General Court a Home Rule Petition to allow for mobile homes to be counted in the Town's affordable housing inventory)</p> <p><b>*Passed</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b> - Currently 6.37% of the Town inventory is affordable housing, and this change if approved by the Legislature would affect 48 units of housing.</p>
<p>Article 38 (To accept a parcel of vacant land located at 93 Centech Blvd as a gift and provide it to SELCO for their strategic goals and operations)</p> <p><b>*Passed</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p>Article 39 (To authorize the required acquisitions of interests in real estate along certain sections of Rt. 20, appropriate funding to pay for any related land damages that may occur, and authorize the conveyance of any such interests to MassDOT)</p> <p><b>*Passed</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p>Article 40 (To transfer \$150,000 from Free Cash for counseling services with Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services)</p> <p><b>*Passed</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p>Article 41 (To transfer \$25,000 from Free Cash to be paid to the Lake Quinsigamond Commission)</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p>Article 42 (To vote to choose the trustees of the Wright and Harlow Charitable Fund)</p> <p><b>*Passed</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>