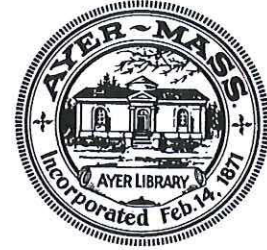


**Town of Ayer**  
**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**  
**WARRANT**



Ayer Shirley Regional High School Auditorium  
141 Washington Street  
Ayer, MA 01432  
May 9, 2016  
7:00 P.M.


Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Middlesex, ss.

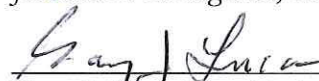
**GREETINGS:**

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Ayer qualified to vote in Town Elections and Affairs to meet at the Auditorium in the Ayer Shirley Regional High School located at 141 Washington Street, Ayer, Massachusetts on Monday, the Ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) day of May, 2016, at seven o'clock in the evening (7:00 p.m.) then and there to act on the following articles:

Hereof fail not and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereof to the Town Clerk before the date appointed for said meeting.

Given under our hands this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April AD 2016.

  
Jannice L. Livingston, Chairman

  
Gary J. Luca, Vice-Chairman

  
Christopher R. Hillman, Clerk

**AYER BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Any persons needing disability related assistance (such as signing, etc.) at the town meeting please contact the Selectmen's Office at 978-772-8220 before May 6, 2016. We shall make every reasonable effort to assist you. Large print version of the text of this warrant is available upon request.

## **ARTICLE 1: TOWN ELECTIONS**

The Town Elections are the first article of business and were held on Monday, April 25, 2016.

## **ARTICLE 2: PAY PRIOR YEAR BILLS**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following amount to pay unpaid bills of Fiscal Year 2015, as authorized under General Laws Chapter 44, or take any action thereon or in relation thereto:

<u>Department</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Sewer Department	Verizon	\$2,954.35

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen Recommends

Finance Committee: Recommends

4/5ths Vote Required

## **ARTICLE 3: SALARIES OF ELECTED OFFICIALS**

To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary and compensation of elected officers of the Town of Ayer, as provided by Section 108, Chapter 41 off the General Laws, as amended, or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

	<u>FY-16 SALARY</u>	<u>FY-17 SALARY</u>	<u>% OF CHANGE</u>
Moderator	\$500	\$500	0
Selectmen: Chair	\$2,506	\$2,506	0
Selectmen: Members (2)	\$2,235	\$2,235	0
Assessors: Chair	\$2,480	\$2,480	0
Assessors: Members (2)	\$2,210	\$2,210	0
Treasurer	\$68,256.72	\$71,346.96*	4.52%
Town Clerk	\$30,715.52	\$32,106.13*	4.52%
Tax Collector	\$37,541.20	\$39,240.83*	4.52%
Tree Warden	\$5,843	\$5,960**	2.00%

*Explanatory Note: This article is required as Town Meeting sets the salaries of elected official pursuant to MGL Chapter 41, Section 108*

*\*FY 2017 salary recommendation per the Town's Non-Union Compensation Plan including the 2% COLA*

*\*\*FY 2017 salary includes 2% COLA*

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen Recommends

Finance Committee: Does Not Recommend

Simple Majority Vote Required

## **ARTICLE 4: CONTRACT FUNDING: DPW Union Contract**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to fund the first year cost items contained in the contract between the Town and DPW

(AFSCME 93/Local 1703) which has a term of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019, or take any action thereon or in relation thereto. The estimated cost of the contract is as follows:

	<b>FY' 17</b>	<b>FY'18</b>	<b>FY'19</b>
General Fund	\$12,654	\$7,253	\$7,393
Enterprise Fund	\$32,101	\$17,014	\$16,835
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$44,755</b>	<b>\$24,267</b>	<b>\$24,228</b>

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen Recommends

Simple Majority Vote Required

**ARTICLE 5: CONTRACT FUNDING: Fire Union Contract  
[Negotiations ongoing]**

**ARTICLE 6: CONTRACT FUNDING: Police Superiors Contract  
[Negotiations ongoing]**

**ARTICLE 7: OMNIBUS BUDGET**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sum or sums of money for the Omnibus items, or take any action thereon or in relation thereto:

Dept. 100: General Government  
 Dept. 200: Finance  
 Dept. 300: Public Safety  
 Dept. 400: Public Works  
 Dept. 500: Human Services  
 Dept. 600: Education  
 Dept. 700: Management Support

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen Recommends

Finance Committee: Does Not Recommend (Will Present at Town Meeting)

Simple Majority Vote Required

*Explanatory Note: Please see insert for Omnibus Budget. Finance Manager and Finance Committee will make presentation on budget. Omnibus Budget represents a 2% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) as recommended by the Personnel Board and approved by the Board of Selectmen. Finance Committee recommends a 1% COLA.*

**FY2017 Omnibus Budget**

	<b>FY2015 Actual</b>	<b>FY2016 Approved</b>	<b>FY2017 Proposed</b>	<b>Difference</b>		<b>Notes</b>
<b>Department 100 - General Government</b>						
01 Selectmen	\$220,916	203,734	219,691	15,957	7.83%	includes \$9,500 for new furniture & non-union pay increases
02 Town Counsel	\$118,301	90,000	115,000	25,000	27.78%	
03 Town Clerk	\$72,978	79,748	81,708	1,960	2.46%	elected Clerk & assitant clerk pay increases
04 Moderator	\$500	500	500	-	0.00%	
05 Parking Tickets	\$1,129	1,000	1,000	-	0.00%	
06 Public Buildings & Property Maintenance	\$273,026	310,720	314,851	4,131	1.33%	Director & custodian pay increases
07 Registrations & Elections	\$12,891	13,896	17,096	3,200	23.03%	includes pay increases for election workers & contracted services
08 Postage	\$17,430	19,000	19,000	-	0.00%	
09 American Legion	\$600	600	600	-	0.00%	
10 Memorial Day	\$1,959	2,000	2,000	-	0.00%	
11 4th of July Celebration	\$10,000	10,000	10,000	-	0.00%	
12 Holiday Lights	\$0	0	10,000	10,000	100.00%	new line item (previously funded as a raise article Oct 2015 STM)
13 Communications Committee	\$0	700	700	-	0.00%	
14 Personnel Board	\$75	100	500	400	400.00%	
<b>Department 100 Total</b>	<b>729,805</b>	<b>731,998</b>	<b>792,646</b>	<b>60,648</b>	<b>8.29%</b>	
<b>Department 200 - Finance</b>						
01 Town Accountant	\$169,326	183,753	180,809	(2,944)	-1.60%	decreased by \$7,402 for unused vacation payout of assistant supposed to retire in FY16; increased by wages & contracted
02 Benefits & Payroll	\$0	65,713	67,466	1,753	2.67%	includes pay increase for Manager & increase in training programs
03 Computer Support - Financial Systems	\$44,551	44,340	47,982	3,642	8.21%	increase in financial software support services & in training
04 Assessors	\$164,382	172,485	179,735	7,250	4.20%	increase in hours for support staff (37 to 40 hours) & pay increases
05 Tax Collector	\$82,359	93,766	96,353	2,587	2.76%	elected Collector & assistant pay increases
06 Treasurer	\$70,526	75,216	78,306	3,090	4.11%	elected Treasurer pay increase
07 Health & Life Insurance	\$1,249,002	1,428,725	1,498,072	69,347	4.85%	increase for new enrollments (new positions in FY16 & FY17)
08A Property & Liability Insurance	\$101,477	154,241	125,484	(28,757)	-18.64%	per quote dated 4/8/2016
08B Workers Compensation	\$34,870	57,515	46,328	(11,187)	-19.45%	per quote dated 4/8/2016
08C Fire & Police Accident	\$138,456	173,289	185,359	12,070	6.97%	per Town Administrator estimate (impact of claim history)
<i>subtotal</i>	<i>274,803</i>	<i>385,045</i>	<i>357,171</i>	<i>(27,874)</i>	<b>-7.24%</b>	
09 Unemployment Compensation	\$13,001	15,511	40,000	24,489	157.88%	increase based on FY16 estimated actual cost
10 County Retirement Assessment	\$1,344,155	1,343,292	1,429,491	86,199	6.42%	per assessment from Middlesex Retirement System
11 Notes & Bonds(Principal)	\$926,001	906,520	947,900	41,380	4.56%	increase due mostly to 1st year of principle payment on FY14 borrow for rehab of fire engine #4
12 Interest	\$218,678	199,624	177,459	(22,165)	-11.10%	decrease in interest on declining principle balances on old debt
13 Tax Title	\$4,699	8,000	8,000	-	0.00%	
14 FICA Medicare	\$84,014	81,648	100,000	18,352	22.48%	increase to reflect past actual expense
15 Finance Committee (Advisory Board)	\$196	500	500	-	0.00%	
16 Reserve Fund	\$156,938	150,000	100,000	(50,000)	-33.33%	decreased by vote of Finance Committee
<b>Department 200 Total</b>	<b>4,802,631</b>	<b>5,154,138</b>	<b>5,309,244</b>	<b>155,106</b>	<b>3.01%</b>	
<b>Department 300 - Public Safety</b>						
01 Police Department	\$1,910,842	2,111,837	2,410,515	298,678	14.14%	includes \$215,443 cost of 2 new dispatchers & 2 new patrolmen; also includes pay increases for Administration, Patrolmen & Dispatchers
02 Fire Department	\$1,532,185	1,539,403	1,556,553	17,150	1.11%	includes pay increases for Administration & step and longevity increases for Firefighters (contract expires 6/30/16 - not yet negotiated) Also includes \$5,000 for additional vehicle maintenance, \$4,000 for a trailer for the RTV, \$1,395 for NPPA subscription.
03 Building Department	\$40,455	89,701	81,983	(7,718)	-8.60%	reflects succession plan & move to full time building inspector. The current inspector reducing hours and the assistant increasing hours until fully certified by the state
04 Emergency Management	\$9,141	12,361	12,500	139	1.12%	
05 Animal Control Officer (Dog Officer)	\$14,412	13,270	13,425	155	1.17%	
06 Animal Inspector	\$2,600	2,600	2,600	-	0.00%	

**FY2017 Omnibus Budget**

	<b>FY2015 Actual</b>	<b>FY2016 Approved</b>	<b>FY2017 Proposed</b>	<b>Difference</b>		<b>Notes</b>
07 Tree Warden	\$22,077	21,112	44,460	23,348	110.59%	includes \$5,000 increase in Tree Warden wages for oversight & work performed & \$17,000 increase in contracted tree services. This appropriation increased to reflect FY16 actual cost of tree removal/replacement
<b>Department 300 Total</b>	<b>3,531,712</b>	<b>3,790,284</b>	<b>4,122,036</b>	<b>331,752</b>	<b>8.75%</b>	
<b>Department 400 - Public Works</b>						
01 Public Works - Administration	\$906,865	1,038,530	1,074,755	36,225	3.49%	includes pay increases for Administration, Highway & Mechanic; also includes \$15,000 for a parking study, \$5,000 for traffic signs & \$6,400 for crosswalk LED signs.
02 Snow & Ice Removal	\$479,538	262,287	262,287	-	0.00%	decrease \$17,600 due to solar net metering credits & lower energy costs; also includes \$7,600 for Main St light improvements
03 Public Works - Street Lighting	\$38,374	74,000	64,000	(10,000)	-13.51%	
04 Care of Graves	\$2,500	2,500	2,500	-	0.00%	
<b>Department 400 Total</b>	<b>1,427,277</b>	<b>1,377,317</b>	<b>1,403,542</b>	<b>26,225</b>	<b>1.90%</b>	
<b>Department 500 - Human Services</b>						
01 Council on Aging	\$118,322	128,609	130,757	2,148	1.67%	increased for contractual pay increases
02 Board of Health	\$14,282	17,094	17,393	299	1.75%	
03 Nashoba Assoc.. Board of Health	\$23,606	24,551	25,440	889	3.62%	FY17 assessment
04 Parks Department	\$125,713	141,091	134,587	(6,504)	-4.61%	decreased for FY16 one-time \$10,000 for Park Dept. projects; increased for Director & staff pay increases
05 Ayer/Shirley Youth Football & Cheerleading	\$4,000	4,000	4,000	-	0.00%	
06 Little League	\$4,000	4,000	4,000	-	0.00%	
07 Veterans Agent	\$18,851	19,192	19,202	10	0.05%	
08 Veterans Benefits	\$122,032	168,000	125,000	(43,000)	-25.60%	decreased to reflect FY16 actual cost
09 Library	\$464,398	496,882	561,676	64,794	13.04%	\$63,064 increase in wages to reflect position reclassification study and new position Assistant to Director of Children's Services. Per Library Commissioners, the hours of the Library will be extended as a result.
10 Disabilities Comm.	\$365	700	700	-	0.00%	
<b>Department 500 Total</b>	<b>895,569</b>	<b>1,004,119</b>	<b>1,022,755</b>	<b>18,636</b>	<b>1.86%</b>	
<b>Department 600 - Management Support</b>						
01 Conservation Commission	\$10,870	25,817	26,293	476	1.84%	due to staff turnover in FY16 , this position's wage line decreased
02 Economic & Community Development	\$32,819	35,561	34,296	(1,265)	-3.56%	
03 Historical Commission	\$492	750	750	-	0.00%	
04 Montachusett Reg. Plan. Comm.	\$2,219	2,274	2,332	58	2.55%	FY17 assessment
05 Mngmt Support (printing & reporting)	\$5,367	8,500	48,965	40,465	476.06%	increased \$40,465 for shared administrative staff for building/permitting departments; this position hired in FY16
06 Information Technology	\$111,000	123,954	134,583	10,629	8.57%	includes \$12,000 for repetitive capital requests for workstations, printers & software; also includes pay increase for Director.
<b>Department 600 Total</b>	<b>162,767</b>	<b>196,856</b>	<b>247,219</b>	<b>50,363</b>	<b>25.58%</b>	
<b>Total Summary by Department</b>						
Dept 100 - General Government	729,805	731,998	792,646	60,648	8.29%	
Dept 200 - Finance	4,802,631	5,154,138	5,309,244	155,106	3.01%	
Dept 300 - Public Safety	3,531,712	3,790,284	4,122,036	331,752	8.75%	
Dept 400 - Public Works	1,427,277	1,377,317	1,403,542	26,225	1.90%	
Dept 500 - Human Services	895,569	1,004,119	1,022,755	18,636	1.86%	
Dept 600 - Management Support	162,767	196,856	247,219	50,363	25.58%	
<b>Total Operating Budgets</b>	<b>11,549,761</b>	<b>12,254,712</b>	<b>12,897,442</b>	<b>642,730</b>	<b>5.24%</b>	

**ARTICLE 8:       FY 2017 AYER SHIRLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL  
DISTRICT ASSESSMENT**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,074,800 required to fund the Town's FY 2017 assessment for the Ayer Shirley Regional School District, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,004,944 for the Town's portion of the ASRSD High School Building Project debt service, or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Ayer Shirley Regional School Committee

Board of Selectmen: Recommends

Finance Committee: Recommends

Simple Majority Vote Required

**ARTICLE 9:       FY 2017 NASHOBA VALLEY TECHNICAL  
VOCATIONAL SCHOOL ASSESSMENT**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$731,147 required to fund the FY 2017 assessment for the Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School, or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Nashoba Valley Technical Vocational School Committee

Board of Selectmen: Recommends

Finance Committee: Recommends

Simple Majority Vote Required

**ENTERPRISE FUND ARTICLES**

**Handouts will be provided at Town Meeting with further detail on Articles No. 10 – 13**

**ARTICLE 10:     SOLID WASTE**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the following funds to operate the solid waste department:

**Direct costs** of \$399,717 of which \$231,000 is to come from solid waste revenue, \$33,881 is to come from solid waste retained earnings and \$134,836 is to come from the tax levy, and **indirect costs** of \$108,732 to come from the tax levy; or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen Recommends

Finance Committee: Recommends

Simple Majority Vote Required

**ARTICLE 11:     AMBULANCE**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the following funds to operate the ambulance department:

**Direct costs** of \$126,034 is to come from ambulance revenue, and indirect costs of \$339,133 of which \$316,214 is to come from ambulance revenue and \$22,919 from ambulance **retained earnings**; or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen Recommends  
Finance Committee: Recommends

Simple Majority Vote Required

## **ARTICLE 12: SEWER**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the following funds to operate the sewer department:

**Direct costs** of \$2,446,209 of which \$2,422,440 is to come from sewer revenue and \$23,769 to come from the tax levy and indirect costs of \$327,647 to come from sewer revenue; or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen Recommends  
Finance Committee: Recommends

Simple Majority Vote Required

## **ARTICLE 13: WATER**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the following funds to operate the water department:

**Direct costs** of \$1,605,935 to come from water revenue and indirect costs of \$264,184 to come from water revenue; or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen Recommends  
Finance Committee: Recommends

Simple Majority Vote Required

### **REVOLVING FUND ARTICLES**

**Recommend Moving Articles 14 through 19 together by consent**

## **ARTICLE 14: COMMUNICATIONS FUND**

*To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize a Revolving Fund, pursuant to G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53E 1/2, for the purpose of supporting the town website, printing and mailing various newsletters, and other town-wide informational mailings from the **Communications Committee**. Receipts to be credited to the account shall be revenues from ads placed in said mailings and on the Town website. The Communication Committee is authorized to expend monies from this fund. In no event shall total expenditures from the Communications Revolving Fund exceed twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) in Fiscal Year 2017, and provided further that no Board, Department or Officer shall be authorized to expend in any one fiscal year from all Revolving Funds under its direct control more than one percent of the amount raised by taxation by the Town in the most recent fiscal year for which a tax rate has been certified under Section Twenty Three of Chapter Fifty Nine, or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.*

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen Recommends  
Finance Committee: Recommends

Simple Majority Vote Required

## **ARTICLE 15: FIRE ALARM FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize a Revolving Fund, pursuant to G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53E 1/2, for the purpose of **Fire Alarm Repairs and Replacement**. Receipts to be credited to the account shall be Fire Alarm Box Assessment Fees and Fines for Needless and False Alarms. The Fire Chief is authorized to expend monies from this fund. In no event shall total expenditures from the Fire Alarm Revolving Account exceed thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) in Fiscal Year 2017, and provided further, that no Board, Department or Officer shall be authorized to expend in any one fiscal year from all Revolving Funds under its direct control more than one percent of the amount raised by taxation by the Town in the most recent fiscal year for which a tax rate has been certified under Section Twenty Three of Chapter Fifty Nine, or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen Recommends  
Finance Committee: Recommends

Simple Majority Vote Required

## **ARTICLE 16: HAZARDOUS MATERIALS FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to G.L. Chapter 44 Section 53E 1/2, for the purpose of **Hazardous Materials Expense**. All receipts from a Haz-Mat incident shall be from billed services, and will be used for replacement of supplies and expenses. The Fire Chief will be authorized to expend monies for this fund. In no event shall total expenditures from the Haz-Mat Revolving Account exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in Fiscal Year 2017, and provided further, that no Board, Department or Officer shall be authorized to expend in any one fiscal year from all Revolving Funds under its direct control more than one percent of the amount raised by taxation by the Town in the most recent fiscal year for which a tax rate has been certified under Section Twenty Three of Chapter Fifty Nine, or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen Recommends  
Finance Committee: Recommends

Simple Majority Vote Required

## **ARTICLE 17: FOURTH OF JULY FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53E 1/2, for the purpose of a **4th of July Revolving Fund**. Receipts to be credited to the Account shall be from vendor fees, and shall be used for purchasing and promoting the event. The 4th of July Committee, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to expend money from this fund. In no event shall total expenditures from the 4th of July Revolving Fund exceed twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) in Fiscal Year 2017 and provided further, that no Board, Department or Officer shall be authorized to expend in any one fiscal year from all Revolving Funds under its direct control more than one percent of the amount raised by taxation by the Town in the most recent fiscal year for which a tax rate has been certified under Section Twenty Three of Chapter Fifty Nine, or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen Recommends  
Finance Committee: Recommends

Simple Majority Vote Required

## **ARTICLE 18: DPW INSPECTION FEES FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to G.L. Chapter 44 Section 53E 1/2, for the purpose of a **Department of Public Works Inspection Revolving Fund**. Receipts to be credited to the fund shall be from development fees or contributions, and shall be used for the purpose of funding inspections of road construction, drainage facilities, and water and sewer line installations. The Superintendent of Public Works shall be authorized to expend money from this fund. In no event shall total expenditures from the Department of Public Works Inspection Revolving Fund exceed one-hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in Fiscal Year 2017 and provided further, that no Board, Department or Officer shall be authorized to expend in any one fiscal year from all Revolving Funds under its direct control more than one percent of the amount raised by taxation by the Town in the most recent fiscal year for which a tax rate has been certified under Section Twenty Three of Chapter Fifty Nine, or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen Recommends  
Finance Committee: Recommends

Simple Majority Vote Required

## **ARTICLE 19: TOWN HALL MAINTENANCE FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to G.L. Chapter 44 Section 53E 1/2, for the purpose of a **Town Hall Maintenance Fund**. Receipts to be credited to the fund shall be from fees assessed for use of Town Hall facilities and may be used for costs related to operation, maintenance, repair and/or reconstruction at Town Hall and its grounds. The Board of Selectmen shall be authorized to expend money from this fund. In no event shall total expenditures from the Town Hall Maintenance Fund exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in Fiscal Year 2017 and provided further, that no Board, Department or Officer shall be authorized to expend in any one fiscal year from all Revolving Funds under its direct control more than one percent of the amount raised by taxation by the Town in the most recent fiscal year for which a tax rate has been certified under Section Twenty Three of Chapter Fifty Nine, or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen Recommends  
Finance Committee: Recommends

Simple Majority Vote Required

## **BORROW ARTICLE**

## **ARTICLE 20: CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow the sums set out in the Warrant and hereby listed for the purposes of funding the following equipment, services and public works projects as contained in the **Capital Budget**, each sum hereafter to be voted on separately, or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

<u>Department</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Fire	Ladder #1 Rehab	\$248,000
	Radio Equipment	\$140,000

Facilities Maintenance	Police Station Roof	\$240,000
DPW – Administration	DPW Operations Center Study	\$75,000
DPW – Highway	East Main Street Design (Final Phase)	\$135,000
	Tractor with Snow Blower & Mower	\$150,000
DPW – Storm Water	Bio filtration/Outfall Improvements	\$50,000
	Balch Pond Dam Repairs	\$131,000
Water Enterprise	Spectacle Pond Well #2 Replacement	\$100,000
	Spectacle Pond Well SCADA Upgrades	\$50,000
	Wright Road Water Main Loop	\$275,000
	Water Main Replacements	\$150,000
Sewer Enterprise	Infiltration Inflow Study & Improvements	\$50,000
	Radio Telemetry System (Phase 2 & Final)	\$30,000
	West Main Street Pump Station	\$550,000
	1 Ton Utility Body Truck with Plow	\$65,000
	Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades (Phase 2 of Study)	<u>\$200,000</u>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,639,000</b>

Sponsor: Capital Planning Committee  
Board of Selectmen: Recommends  
Finance Committee: Recommends

2/3 Vote Required

### **TRANSFER ARTICLES**

#### **ARTICLE 21: CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the following sums hereby listed for the purpose of funding the following equipment, services and public works projects as contained in the Capital Budget, each sum hereafter to be voted on separately, or take any action thereon or in relation thereto:

##### **GENERAL FUND**

Information Technology	Copiers for COA and Fire Department	\$12,200
Fire Department	Fire Prevention Car & Radio	\$38,000
Library	Replace HVAC Control System	\$25,000
DPW- Administration	Superintendent Vehicle	<u>\$35,000</u>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$110,200</b>

Sponsor: Capital Planning Committee  
Board of Selectmen: Recommends  
Finance Committee: Recommends

Simple Majority Vote Required

#### **ARTICLE 22: UDAG REPLENISHMENTS**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the following amounts to replenish the Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) account:

Planning Board Administrative Support	\$5,000
Purchase of Additional Fire Station Land (0 Park Street)	\$250,000
Engineering Services for West Main Street & Shirley Street Bridge	<u>\$100,000</u>

**Total                      \$355,000**

Or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

*Explanatory Note: This article will replenish the Town's UDAG Fund in the amounts set forth in the article. These funds were used from the UDAG's unrestricted funds for purposes that did not have a repayment mechanism in place.*

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen Recommends

Finance Committee: Recommends

Simple Majority Vote Required

## **ARTICLE 23:        STABILIZATION FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$638,876 or such other sum or sums of money, with \$138,876 to be credited to the Stabilization Fund under the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, and \$500,000 to be credited to the Capital Stabilization Fund per the Town's Financial Policies or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen Recommends

Finance Committee: Recommends

Two-thirds Majority Vote Required

## **TRANSFER AND RAISE & APPROPRIATE ARTICLES**

## **ARTICLE 24:        MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$34,135 and to transfer from Free Cash \$65,865 totaling the sum of \$100,000 to update the Town's Master Plan, or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

*Explanatory Note: The Town's Master Plan is subject to review and update every ten years. The last update was in 2005. This article would provide the additional funding for the Master Plan Committee to update the Master Plan. The 2015 Annual Town Meeting provided \$10,000 in initial funding.*

Sponsor: Master Plan Committee

Board of Selectmen: Recommends

Finance Committee: No Recommendation

Simple Majority Vote Required

## **ARTICLE 25:        GASB-45/OPEB (Post-Employment Benefits) FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$120,000 and transfer \$180,000 from Free Cash, totaling the sum of \$300,000 to meet the Town's obligations under the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement 45 to fund the Town's future obligation for the cost of other post-employment benefits (OPEB), or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

*Explanatory Note: The Town's recent GASB-45 Report recommended a contribution of \$300,000. This article takes \$120,000 from the Town's Local Meals Tax and transfers \$180,000 from free cash for a total of \$300,000.*

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen Recommends

Finance Committee: Recommends

OPEB Board of Trustees: Recommends

Simple Majority Vote Required

### **RAISE & APPROPRIATE ARTICLES**

#### **ARTICLE 26: ARBITRAGE REBATE COMPLIANCE SERVICE**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 for Arbitrage Rebate Compliance Services, or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

*Explanatory Note: Required bi-annually.*

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen Recommends

Finance Committee: Recommends

Simple Majority Vote Required

#### **ARTICLE 27: PAYROLL ACCRUAL CONSULTING SERVICES**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to provide funds for payroll accrual consulting services, or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

*Explanatory Note: This article would fund the MUNIS module necessary for the implementation of payroll accruals on all town employee pay checks.*

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen Recommends

Finance Committee: Recommends

Simple Majority Vote Required

#### **ARTICLE 28: FUNDING FOR AYER CULTURAL COUNCIL**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,600 to provide funding for the Ayer Cultural Council (ACC) to be used as matching funds allocated from the Massachusetts Cultural Council for the purposes of financial support for local artistic and cultural exhibitions, performances, and events that benefit Ayer Resident, or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Ayer Cultural Council

Board of Selectmen: Recommends

Finance Committee: Recommends

Simple Majority Vote Required

## **ARTICLE 29: FIRST YEAR'S INTEREST-GENERAL FUND BORROWING**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$93,520 required to provide for the first year's interest charges and associated administrative expenses on all General Fund borrowing/bonding authorized by this Town Meeting, or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen Recommends  
Finance Committee: Recommends

Simple Majority Vote Required

## **OTHER BUSINESS ARTICLES**

### **ARTICLE 30: EAST MAIN STREET AREA WATER MAINS**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the purpose of Article 21 of the May 12, 2014, Annual Town Meeting, which addressed East Main Street water mains, to address East Main Street area water mains, or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

*Explanatory Note: May 12, 2014 Annual Town Meeting approved East Main Street water mains. By adding East Main Street area water mains, we will broaden the scope of project.*

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen Recommends

Simple Majority Vote Required

### **ARTICLE 31: EAST MAIN STREET AREA SEWER MAINS**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the purpose of Article 22 of the May 12, 2014, Annual Town Meeting, which addressed East Main Street sewer mains, to address East Main Street area mains, or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

*Explanatory Note: May 12, 2014 Annual Town Meeting approved East Main Street sewer mains. By adding East Main Street area sewer mains, we will broaden the scope of project.*

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen Recommends

Simple Majority Vote Required

### **ARTICLE 32: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT**

To see if the Town will hear and act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2017 Community Preservation Act budget, and appropriate from the estimated FY 2017 Community Preservation Fund revenues:

- A sum of money equal to five percent, and not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000), to meet the administrative expenses and all other necessary and proper expenses of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2017.

And further, to reserve for future appropriation from the estimated FY 2017 Community Preservation Fund revenues the following sums of money, as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, for each of the following purposes:

- A sum of money equal to \$180,307, more or less, for acquisition, creation and preservation of open space excluding land for recreational use, and
- A sum of money equal to \$23,164, more or less, for acquisition, preservation, restoration and rehabilitation of historic resources, and
- A sum of money equal to \$23,164, more or less, for acquisition, creation and preservation and support of community housing.

Or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

*Explanatory Note: Disbursement required by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under M.G.L. Chapter 44B for the estimated FY 2017 Community Preservation Fund revenues.*

Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee

Board of Selectmen: Recommends

Finance Committee: Recommends

Simple Majority Vote Required

### **ARTICLE 33: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUND FY 2017 TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Community Preservation Fund FY2017 estimated annual revenues, the sum of \$12,000 and reserve said sum for future appropriation by the Community Preservation Committee for general open space purposes; or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

*Explanatory Note: Due diligence for future appropriations by the Community Preservation Committee for general open space purposes.*

Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee

Board of Selectmen: Recommends

Finance Committee: Recommends

Simple Majority Vote Required

### **ARTICLE 34: SANDY POND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT FUNDING PROJECT**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Community Preservation Fund (FY 2017) Balance Reserve from Historic Resources Category the sum of money not to exceed \$20,000 to the Sandy Pond School Association for the commissioning of a Conditions Assessment of the Sandy Pond School building to identify recommended physical repairs and restoration work, develop an on-going maintenance program, establish priorities for this work and provide cost estimates; or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee  
Historical Commission: Recommends

Board of Selectmen: Recommends  
Finance Committee: Recommends

Simple Majority Vote Required

### **ARTICLE 35: AUTHORIZATION OF EXTENSION OF TOWN WATER AND SEWER LINES**

To see if the Town will authorize the extension of the Town water and sewer lines on Harvard Road to a parcel of land primarily located in Harvard (Tax Parcel 2-8) with a portion in Ayer (Tax Parcel 42-1), with a street address of 356 Ayer Road.

*Explanatory Note: Town of Ayer Bylaw Article XVII - Extension of Water and Sewer Lines states "No permanent water or sewage line may be extended outside of the boundary of the Town of Ayer unless said extension be authorized by a vote of the Town at an Annual or Special Town Meeting." The DPW received a letter from SJ Mullaney Engineering Inc. dated January 21, 2016 because a developer is considering developing 19 acres of vacant land on the Ayer and Harvard town line and are requesting Ayer municipal water and sewer service. The anticipated water and sewer usage would be 13,200 gallons per day. An Inter-municipal Agreement between the Towns of Ayer and Harvard will need to be executed which will detail the responsibilities, conditions and billing.*

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen Recommends

Simple Majority Vote Required

### **ARTICLE 36: ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY AT DEPOT SQUARE (ACCESS CORRIDOR)**

To see if the Town will vote to acquire, by gift, purchase or eminent domain, the fee or lesser interest in a certain parcel of land as approximately shown on a concept plan entitled "Plan of Land in Ayer, Massachusetts on Main Street for a Land Taking on Land Owned by Worthen Dale Realty Corp.," said concept plan on file with the Town Clerk, consisting of 16,000 square feet, more or less, and being a portion of the property described in a deed recorded with the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 12135, Page 442 and in Probate Number 586803; and, as funding therefor and costs related thereto, raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow, a sum of money; and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority a perpetual access easement, from Main Street to the rail property located southerly of the parcel to be acquired; and authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the acquisition of such parcel of land and the conveyance of the easement to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority; or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

*Explanatory Note: This article would authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire the Depot Square Access Property as required for the construction of the Commuter Rail Surface Parking Lot and Access Improvement Project. A complete presentation to be made at Town Meeting to include the plan of the property to be taken as well as the actual appraised cost for acquisition.*

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen Recommends

Two-thirds Vote Required

**ARTICLE 37: ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY AT DEPOT SQUARE  
(ACCESS CORRIDOR & ADVOCATES BUILDING)**

To see if the Town will vote to acquire, by gift, purchase or eminent domain, the fee or lesser interest in a certain parcel of land as approximately shown on a concept plan entitled "Plan of Lands of Worthen Dale Realty Corp. Book 12135, Page 442 and Probate Number 586803 To Be Acquired by the Town of Ayer, Massachusetts," said concept plan on file with the Town Clerk, consisting of 26,000 square feet, more or less, and being a portion of the property described in a deed recorded with the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 12135, Page 442 and in Probate Number 586803; and, as funding therefor and costs related thereto, raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow, a sum of money; and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority a perpetual access easement, from Main Street to the rail property located southerly of the parcel to be acquired; and authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the acquisition of such parcel of land and the conveyance of the easement to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority; or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

*Explanatory Note: This article would authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire the Depot Square Access Property and the Advocates Building as required for the construction of the Commuter Rail Surface Parking Lot and Access Improvement Project. A complete presentation to be made at Town Meeting to include the plan of the property to be taken as well as the actual appraised cost for acquisition.*

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen Recommends

Two-thirds Vote Required

A True Copy Attest:

  
Susan E. Copeland  
Town Clerk & Tax Collector

Date: April 25 2016

As directed in the foregoing warrant, I have this day posted three attested copies in three public places, one of which was the Town Hall at least fourteen days before said meeting, all as herein directed.

  
Constable

Date: 4-25-2016