Town of Ayer

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Ayer Shirley Regional High School Auditorium
141 Washington Street
Ayer, MA 01432
June 15, 2020 at 7:00 PM

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 fifteenth (15th) day of June, 2020, at seven o'clock in the evening (7:00 PM) 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 7th day of April AD 2020.

Scott A. Houde, Chair

Jannice L. Livingston, Vice Chair

Shaun C. Copeland, Clerk

The 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 June 5, 2020. We shall make every reasonable effort to assist you. Large print version of the text of this warrant is available upon request.

Art.	Description	FY '21 Financial Impact	FY '21 General Fund Impact	BOS	Fin Com
Annual Town Meeting (FY 2021)					
1	Town Elections	n/a	n/a		
2	Salaries of Elected Officials*	$15,564	$15,564	Recommends	Recommends
3	Contract Funding: Town Hall Clerical Union*	$23,196	$18,468	Recommends	Recommends
4	Omnibus Budget	$15,626,301	$15,626,301	Recommends	Recommends
5	FY '21 ASRSD Assessment	$12,459,325	$12,459,325	Recommends	Recommends
6	FY '21 NVTSD Assessment	$870,317	$870,317	Recommends	Recommends
7	Solid Waste Enterprise Fund	$579,652	$93,412	Recommends	Recommends
8	Ambulance Enterprise Fund	$592,213	($320,212)	Recommends	Recommends
9	Sewer Enterprise Fund	$3,371,236	($353,236)	Recommends	Recommends
10	Water Enterprise Fund	$3,003,166	($297,781)	Recommends	Recommends
11	FY '21 Capital Budget Requests to Borrow	$5,495,000	$715,000	Recommends	Recommends
12	FY '21 Capital Budget Requests	$715,000	$0	Recommends	Recommends
13	Transfer of Unexpended Borrow – PD High-Risk Equipment	$0	$0	Recommends	Recommends
14	UDAG Replenishment	$230,000	$230,000	Recommends	Recommends
15	GASB-45/OPEB Fund	$300,000	$300,000	Recommends	Recommends
16	1st Year's Interest - General Fund Borrowing	$60,775	$60,775	Recommends	Recommends
17	Funding for Aquatic Weed Control - Ponds	$30,000	$30,000	Recommends	Recommends
18	Funding for Conservation Fund	$5,000	$5,000	Recommends	Recommends
19	Matching Funds – Firefighters Grant	$2,500	$2,500	Recommends	Recommends
20	Tactical Ballistic Gear – Fire Department	$10,000	$10,000	Recommends	Recommends
21	150th Celebration	$10,000	$10,000	Recommends	Recommends
22	MUNIS Software Upgrades	$6,400	$6,400	Recommends	Recommends
23	Establishment of Compensated Balance Reserve Fund	n/a	n/a	Recommends	Recommends
24	Funding of Compensated Balance Reserve Fund	$50,000	$50,000	Recommends	Recommends
25	Forward Funding Town's Pension Assessment	$300,000	$300,000	Recommends	Recommends
26	Stabilization Fund	$949,139	$949,139	Recommends	Recommends
27	Community Preservation Act**	TBD	TBD	Recommends	Recommends
28	CPC Fund FY '20 Transfer of Funds**	TBD	TBD	Recommends	Recommends
29	CPC – Historical Inventory Project**	TBD	TBD	Recommends	Recommends
30	Change Board of Selectmen to Select Board	n/a	n/a	Recommends	Non-Financial
31	Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Downtown Parking	n/a	n/a	Recommends	Non-Financial
32	Re-adoption of General Bylaws	n/a	n/a	Recommends	Non-Financial
33	Re- adoption of Zoning Bylaw	n/a	n/a	Recommends	Non-Financial
34	Street Acceptance: Haymeadow Lane, Holly Ridge Road, Appleblossom Drive	n/a	n/a	Recommends	Non-Financial
35	Grant of Easement to National Grid – 3 Groton St.	n/a	n/a	Recommends	Non-Financial

*Cost of these articles is included in Article 6 the Omnibus Budget
** Due to the unprecedented circumstances of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the CPC has yet to formally meet to provide its formal recommendations and appropriations for these Articles. The CPC will meet and vote the recommended appropriations to be reported at Town Meeting.

For more information, please visit the Town's website: www.ayer.ma.us

ARTICLE 1: TOWN ELECTIONS

The Town Elections are the first article of business and were held on Tuesday, June 2, 2020.

ARTICLE 2: 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 of the General Laws, as amended, or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

	FY-20 SALARY	FY-21 SALARY	% OF CHANGE
Moderator	$530	$541	2%
Selectmen: Chair	$2,659	$2,713	2%
Selectmen: Members (2)	$2,373	$2,420	2%
Assessors: Chair	$2,633	$2,686	2%
Assessors: Members (2)	$2,345	$2,392	2%

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen
Finance Committee: Recommends Simple Majority Vote Required

Explanatory Note: This Article is required as Town Meeting sets the salaries of elected officials pursuant to MGL Chapter 41, Section 108.

ARTICLE 3: CONTRACT FUNDING: AYER TOWN HALL/CLERICAL UNION, AFSCME 93

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 of a collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Ayer and the Ayer Town Hall/Clerical Union, AFSCME 93 for the period of July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2023, or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen
Finance Committee: Recommends Simple Majority Vote Required

Explanatory Note: Per MGL Chapter 150E, Union Contracts are subject to the appropriation of funds by Town Meeting. The FY 2021 estimated total cost of the Contract is $23,196. Memorandum of Agreement available on Town's website (www.ayer.ma.us). Presentation to be made at Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 4: OMNIBUS BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money and transfer $27,998 from Free Cash 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: Management Support

FY2021 Omnibus Budget

	FY2019 Actual	FY2020 Approved	FY2021 Proposed	Difference		Notes
Department 100 - General Government						
01 Selectmen	$244,431.00	$261,760.00	$272,434.00	$10,674.00	4.08%	wage increases only
02 Town Counsel	$60,863.00	$110,000.00	$100,000.00	($10,000.00)	-9.09%	reduced to reflect past 2 years actual expense
03 Town Clerk	$123,543.00	$129,730.00	$137,323.00	$7,593.00	5.85%	includes $6,093 in wage increases and $1,500 increase in expenses
04 Moderator	$520.00	$530.00	$541.00	$11.00	2.08%	
05 Parking Tickets	$1,197.00	$1,500.00	$1,500.00	$0.00	0.00%	
06 Public Buildings & Property Maintenance	$340,162.00	$359,669.00	$362,536.00	$2,867.00	0.80%	includes $5,282 in wage increases and reductions in one-time expenses
07 Registrations & Elections	$20,946.00	$20,946.00	$25,396.00	$4,450.00	21.25%	includes $3,000 increase in election worker wages and increases in expenses
08 Postage	$19,814.00	$20,000.00	$20,000.00	$0.00	0.00%	
09 American Legion	$600.00	$600.00	$600.00	$0.00	0.00%	
10 Memorial Day	$457.00	$1,000.00	$1,000.00	$0.00	0.00%	
11 4th of July Celebration	$10,000.00	$10,000.00	$5,000.00	($5,000.00)	-50.00%	no fireworks July 4, 2020 (FY2021)
12 Holiday Lights	$10,000.00	$10,000.00	$15,000.00	$5,000.00	50.00%	additional lighting at rotary due to new trees/plantings
Department 100 Total	**$832,533.00**	**$925,735.00**	**$941,330.00**	**$15,595.00**	1.68%	
Department 200 - Finance						
01 Town Accountant	$195,249.00	$207,317.00	$212,916.00	$5,599.00	2.70%	includes $8,299 in wage increases and $2,700 reduction in
02 Benefits & Payroll	$69,943.00	$77,138.00	$78,731.00	$1,593.00	2.07%	wage increase only
03 Computer Support - Financial Systems	$44,240.00	$48,713.00	$49,903.00	$1,190.00	2.44%	increased mostly due to increase in financial application services
04 Assessors	$180,439.00	$186,778.00	$194,334.00	$7,556.00	4.05%	includes $4,756 in wage increases and $2,800 increase cost of map update
05 Treasurer/Tax Collector	$150,983.00	$176,984.00	$187,119.00	$10,135.00	5.73%	includes $7,135 in wage increases plus $6,000 for office renovations/furniture and $3,000 reduction in services to reflect actual cost
06 Health & Life Insurance	$1,651,949.00	$1,774,672.00	$1,873,418.00	$98,746.00	5.56%	increased mostly due to increase in health insurance premiums and participation
07 General Insurance	$191,912.00	$212,837.00	$231,478.00	$18,641.00	8.76%	includes5% premium increase and $8,000 for add'l workers comp exposure
09 Unemployment Compensation	$2,719.00	$5,600.00	$5,600.00	$0.00	0.00%	
10 County Retirement Assessment	$1,450,939.00	$1,687,582.00	$1,787,745.00	$100,163.00	5.94%	increase in assessment
11 Notes & Bonds (Principal)	$879,800.00	$1,105,909.00	$969,600.00	($136,309.00)	-12.33%	
12 Interest	$131,758.00	$249,294.00	$219,120.00	($30,174.00)	-12.10%	
13 Tax Title	$13,140.00	$15,000.00	$15,000.00	$0.00	0.00%	
14 FICA Medicare	$112,188.00	$122,500.00	$135,000.00	$12,500.00	10.20%	
15 Finance Committee	$280.00	$500.00	$500.00	$0.00	0.00%	
16 Reserve Fund	$150,000.00	$150,000.00	$150,000.00	$0.00	0.00%	
Department 200 Total	**$5,225,539.00**	**$6,020,824.00**	**$6,110,464.00**	**$89,640.00**	1.49%	
Department 300 - Public Safety						
01 Police Department	$2,529,357.00	$2,939,222.00	$3,082,499.00	$143,277.00	4.87%	includes $116,637 in wage increases, $20,701 increases in service maintenance agreements, $4,039 increase in expenses and $1,900 increase in college reimbursements
02 Fire Department	$1,703,133.00	$1,846,103.00	$1,987,926.00	$141,823.00	7.68%	includes $38,040 in wage increases, $101,392 for new Deputy Fire Chief position and $2,391 increases in expenses
03 Building Department	$94,267.00	$107,537.00	$105,087.00	($2,450.00)	-2.28%	includes $4,050 increase in wages and $6,500 reduction in expenses to reflect actual
04 Emergency Management	$21,073.00	$22,605.00	$22,856.00	$251.00	1.11%	
05 Animal Control Officer (Dog Officer)	$13,460.00	$14,799.00	$15,626.00	$827.00	5.59%	wage increase only
06 Animal/Barn Inspector	$2,600.00	$2,600.00	$2,600.00	$0.00	0.00%	
07 Tree Warden	$47,196.00	$44,901.00	$54,904.00	$10,003.00	22.28%	increase due mostly to $10,000 for tree management study/report
Department 300 Total	**$4,411,086.00**	**$4,977,767.00**	**$5,271,498.00**	**$293,731.00**	5.90%	
Department 400 - Public Works						
01 Public Works	$1,093,370.00	$1,275,100.00	$1,311,798.00	$36,698.00	2.88%	includes $22,998 in wage increases; increase of $21,000 in professional services; $11,000 for oversight of Mass DOT - E. Main St and $10,000 for stormwater discharge evaluation and net reduction of $7,300 in expenses
02 Snow & Ice Removal	$276,428.00	$320,000.00	$320,000.00	$0.00	0.00%	
03 Public Works - Street Lighting	$10,631.00	$40,000.00	$36,500.00	($3,500.00)	-8.75%	
04 Care of Graves	$2,500.00	$3,750.00	$3,950.00	$200.00	5.33%	increase requested by St. Mary's Cemetery
Department 400 Total	**$1,382,929.00**	**$1,638,850.00**	**$1,672,248.00**	**$33,398.00**	2.04%	
Department 500 - Human Services						
01 Council on Aging	$165,343.00	$175,715.00	$190,481.00	$14,766.00	8.40%	includes $15,166 increase in wages
02 Board of Health	$11,859.00	$2,375.00	$2,375.00	$0.00	0.00%	the duties of the BOH admin staff were absorbed by the Management Support staff in late FY19
03 Nashoba Assoc. Board of Health	$28,047.00	$29,449.00	$30,921.00	$1,472.00	5.00%	FY2021 assessment
04 Parks Department	$148,039.00	$159,151.00	$166,164.00	$7,013.00	4.41%	wage increases only
05 Ayer/Shirley Youth Football & Cheerleading	$4,000.00	$4,000.00	$4,000.00	$0.00	0.00%	
06 Little League	$4,000.00	$4,000.00	$4,000.00	$0.00	0.00%	

FY2021 Omnibus Budget

	FY2019 Actual	FY2020 Approved	FY2021 Proposed	Difference		Notes
07 Veterans Agent	$19,183.00	$19,893.00	$20,284.00	$391.00	1.97%	
08 Veterans Benefits	$120,181.00	$140,000.00	$125,000.00	($15,000.00)	-10.71%	reduced to reflect FY2019 and FY2020 actual costs
09 Library	$595,277.00	$607,369.00	$615,544.00	$8,175.00	1.35%	includes $10,000 increase to services to cover HVAC service, janitorial and IT services and $1,825 net decrease in wages and other expenses to reflect actual costs
10 Disabilities Comm.	$461.00	$500.00	$500.00	$0.00	0.00%	
Department 500 Total	**$1,096,390.00**	**$1,142,452.00**	**$1,159,269.00**	**$16,817.00**	1.47%	
Department 600 - Management Support						
01 Conservation Commission	$57,303.00	$61,219.00	$68,563.00	$7,344.00	12.00%	includes $4,164 in wage increases and $3,180 for new beaver deceiver related costs
02 Economic & Community Development	$37,089.00	$39,180.00	$41,015.00	$1,835.00	4.68%	includes $1,885 in wage increases
03 Town Planner	$82,676.00	$85,540.00	$89,319.00	$3,779.00	4.42%	wage increases only
04 Historical Commission	$127.00	$750.00	$750.00	$0.00	0.00%	
05 Montachusett Reg. Plan. Comm.	$2,449.00	$2,511.00	$2,573.00	$62.00	2.47%	FY2021 assessment
06 Mgmt. Support (printing & reporting)	$57,366.00	$66,083.00	$85,418.00	$19,335.00	29.26%	includes $3,335 in wage increases, $3,500 increased printing costs and new charges of $5,500 for Clear Gov budget book, $5,000 for general code annual maintenance and $2,000 for training
07 Information Technology	$152,296.00	$166,811.00	$183,854.00	$17,043.00	10.22%	includes $4,331 in wage increases; $8,200 for digitizing town records and $4,512 for increase in expenses
Department 600 Total	**$389,306.00**	**$422,094.00**	**$471,492.00**	**$49,398.00**	11.70%	
Total Summary by Department						
Dept 100 - General Government	$832,533.00	$925,735.00	$941,330.00	$15,595.00	1.68%	
Dept 200 - Finance	$5,225,539.00	$6,020,824.00	$6,110,464.00	$89,640.00	1.49%	
Dept 300 - Public Safety	$4,411,086.00	$4,977,767.00	$5,271,498.00	$293,731.00	5.90%	
Dept 400 - Public Works	$1,382,929.00	$1,638,850.00	$1,672,248.00	$33,398.00	2.04%	
Dept 500 - Human Services	$1,096,390.00	$1,142,452.00	$1,159,269.00	$16,817.00	1.47%	
Dept 600 - Management Support	$389,306.00	$422,094.00	$471,492.00	$49,398.00	11.70%	
Total Operating Budgets	**$13,337,783.00**	**$15,127,722.00**	**$15,626,301.00**	**$498,579.00**	**3.30%**	

Explanatory Note: Please see insert for Omnibus Budget. Presentation on the budget to be made at Town Meeting. Omnibus Budget includes a 2% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for Non-Union Personnel as recommended by the Town Manager and approved by the Board of Selectmen on March 4, 2020.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen
Finance Committee: Recommends Simple Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 5: FY 2021 AYER SHIRLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ASSESSMENT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $11,525,813 as required to fund the Town's FY 2021 assessment for the Ayer Shirley Regional School District, and to raise and appropriate the sum of $933,512 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

Explanatory Note: This Article will fund the FY 2021 Ayer Shirley Regional School District Assessment and the Town's portion of the ASRSD High School Building Project debt service.

ARTICLE 6: FY 2021 NASHOBA VALLEY TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOL ASSESSMENT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $870,317 required to fund the FY 2021 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

Explanatory Note: This Article will fund the FY 2021 Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School Assessment.

ENTERPRISE FUND ARTICLES

Handouts will be provided at Town Meeting with further detail on Articles No. 7 – 10

ARTICLE 7: 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 $460,491 of which $331,300 is to come from solid waste revenue, $35,779 is to come from solid waste retained earnings and $93,412 is to come from the tax levy, and indirect costs of $119,161 is to come from the tax levy; or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen
Finance Committee: Recommends Simple Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 8: 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 $185,980 is to come from ambulance revenue, and indirect costs of $406,233 of which $270,212 is to come from ambulance revenue and $50,000 from ambulance retained earnings and $86,021 is to come from the tax levy; or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen
Finance Committee: Recommends Simple Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 9: 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 $2,999,280 of which $2,980,560 is to come from sewer revenue and $18,720 is to come from the tax levy and indirect costs of $371,956 of which $192,052 is to come from sewer revenue and $179,904 is to come from sewer retained earnings; or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen
Finance Committee: Recommends Simple Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 10: 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 $2,705,385 of which $2,652,180 is to come from water revenue and $53,205 is to come from water retained earnings, and indirect costs of $297,781 is to come from water retained earnings; or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen
Finance Committee: Recommends Simple Majority Vote Required

BORROW ARTICLE

ARTICLE 11: 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, and all costs incidental or related thereto, as contained in the Capital Budget, each sum hereafter to be voted on separately, provided that any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved hereunder in accordance with G.L. c. 44, §20, thereby reducing by a like amount the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs, or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Department	Item	Amount
Information Technology	Town-wide server upgrades	$45,000
Parks Department	Pickup truck with plow, purchase and equip	$40,000
DPW Admin	Main & Columbia design engineering phase 2	$250,000
DPW Highway	Road paving	$150,000
DPW Highway	Front end loader, purchase and equip	$230,000
Water Enterprise	Spectacle Pond PFAS improvements	$2,630,000
	Groton Shirley Rd water main loop	$575,000
	Water main replacements	$150,000
	Spectacle Pond filter media replacement	$350,000
Sewer Enterprise	Infiltration/Inflow repairs	$500,000
	Groton Shirley Rd low pressure sewer	$500,000
	1-ton utility truck with plow, purchase and equip	$75,000
	Total:	**$5,495,000**

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen
Finance Committee: Recommends Two-Thirds Vote Required

Explanatory Note: All of the above Capital Budget requests and amounts were reviewed by and recommended by the Town's Capital Planning Committee.

TRANSFER ARTICLES

ARTICLE 12: CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

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

Facilities	Town Hall boiler/HVAC replacement	$20,000
Parks Department	Landscape trailer	$15,000
	Remediation Study Kiddie Junction	$20,000
Fire Department	Thermal camera replacement	$15,000
	CO monitors	$16,000
Police Department	Replace detective vehicle, purchase and equip	$30,000
DPW Highway	Barnum Rd bridge repairs	$30,000
DPW Stormwater	Stormwater utility implementation	$25,000
	Total	**$171,000**

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen
Finance Committee: Recommends Two-Thirds Vote Required

Explanatory Note: All of the above Capital Budget requests and amounts were reviewed by and recommended by the Town's Capital Planning Committee.

ARTICLE 13: TRANSFER ARTICLE FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT HIGH RISK PREVENTION EQUIPMENT

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the unexpended borrowing authorization totaling $10,644 as voted under Article 13 of the May 14, 2018 Annual Town Meeting, Police Department – Upgrade Evidence/Property Storage to pay for Police Department – High-Risk Event Protection Equipment, or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen
Finance Committee: Recommends Simple Majority Vote Required

Explanatory Note: This Article will transfer $10,644 from an unexpended borrow Article (Article 13 of the May 14, 2018 Annual Town Meeting) originally for the Upgrade of the Evidence/Property Storage Project and fund the Police Department's High-Risk Event Protection Equipment.

ARTICLE 14: UDAG REPLENISHMENTS

To see if the Town will vote to transfer $230,000 from Free Cash to replenish the Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) account for the following:

Worthen Dale Depot Square Eminent Domain Settlement: $230,000

Total: $230,000

Or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen
Finance Committee: Recommends Simple Majority Vote Required

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. The $230,000 is the second of three UDAG replenishment payments for the Worthen Dale Depot Square Eminent Domain Settlement.

ARTICLE 15: GASB-45/OPEB (Post-Employment Benefits) FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate $129,700 and transfer $170,300 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.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen
Finance Committee: Recommends Simple Majority Vote Required

Explanatory Note: This Article funds the Town's GASB-45/OPEB, Post-Employment Benefits in the total sum of $300,000 with $129,700 derived from the Town's Local Meals Tax and $170,300 from Free Cash as recommended by the Town's OPEB Board of Trustees.

RAISE & APPROPRIATE ARTICLES

ARTICLE 16: FIRST YEAR'S INTEREST–GENERAL FUND BORROWING

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $60,775 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
Finance Committee: Recommends Simple Majority Vote Required

Explanatory Note: This Article will fund the first-year interest charges associated with the administrative expenses on all General Fund borrowing/bonding authorized by this Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 17: FUNDING FOR AQUATIC WEED CONTROL FOR TOWN PONDS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $30,000 for the purpose of funding the aquatic weed control program for the Town's ponds, and any incidental and related costs and expenses; or take any action thereon or in relation thereto. Funds are to be spent by June 30, 2023; unexpended funds on June 30, 2023, to close and revert to general fund balance.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen
Finance Committee: Recommends Simple Majority Vote Required

Explanatory Note: Funding from this Article will be used by the Conservation Commission for the purposes of the aquatic weed control of the Town's ponds.

ARTICLE 18: FUNDING FOR CONSERVATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $5,000 for the purpose of funding the Town's Conservation Fund established pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 40, §8C, or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen
Finance Committee: Recommends Simple Majority Vote Required

Explanatory Note: This Article would fund $5,000 into the Town's Conservation Fund established by Town Meeting and administered by the Conservation Commission for the purposes of acquiring conservation land in the Town.

ARTICLE 19: MATCHING FUNDING FOR FIREFIGHTERS GRANT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $2,500 as matching funds (5% matching funds) for a Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant; or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen
Finance Committee: Recommends Simple Majority Vote Required

Explanatory Note: This Article would fund the required five percent (5%) matching funds for a FY 2021 Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant. These funds will only be required if the grant submission is successful.

ARTICLE 20: FUNDING FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT TACTICAL BALLISTIC GEAR

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $10,000 for the purposes of purchasing Tactical Ballistic Gear for the Ayer Fire Department; or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen
Finance Committee: Recommends Simple Majority Vote Required

Explanatory Note: This Article would fund six (6) sets of Tactical Ballistic Gear for the Ayer Fire Department.

ARTICLE 21: FUNDING FOR THE TOWN'S 150TH CELEBRATION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $10,000 for the purposes of the Town of Ayer's 150th Anniversary Celebration to take place in the year 2021; or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen
Finance Committee: Recommends Simple Majority Vote Required

Explanatory Note: This Article would fund $10,000 for the purposes of planning and celebrating the Town of Ayer's 150th Anniversary (February 14, 2021) to take place in the year 2021.

ARTICLE 22: FUNDING FOR MUNIS FINANCIAL SOFTWARE SYSTEM UPGRADES

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $6,400 for the purposes of upgrading the Town's MUNIS Financial Software System, including but not limited to purchase of software and any needed hardware, and installation and technical support for same; or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen
Finance Committee: Recommends Simple Majority Vote Required

Explanatory Note: This Article will fund the upgrade of the Town's MUNIS Financial Software System and needed hardware to operate the Town's computerized financial systems.

ARTICLE 23: ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONS OF MGL CHAPTER 40, SECTION 13D (CREATION OF A RESERVE FUND FOR FUTURE PAYMENTS OF ACCRUED LIABILITIES FOR COMPENSATED ABSENCES)

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 40, Section 13D to create a reserve fund for future payments of accrued liability for compensated absences due to employees or officials of the Town of Ayer upon termination of their employment; or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen
Finance Committee: Recommends Simple Majority Vote Required

Explanatory Note: This Article would adopt the provision of MGL Chapter 40, Section 31D which would create a reserve fund for the future payments of accrued liabilities for compensated absences due to employees or officials of the Town of Ayer upon separation of service of their employment. Appropriations into this reserve fund will enable the Town to properly address and fund retirements and/or separations of service.

ARTICLE 24: FUNDING OF THE RESERVE FUND FOR FUTURE PAYMENTS OF ACCRUED LIABILITIES FOR COMPENSATED ABSENCES

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of $50,000 for funding the Town's reserve fund in accordance with MGL Chapter 40, Section 13D for future payments of accrued liability for compensated absences due to employees of the Town of Ayer upon termination of their employment; or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen
Finance Committee: Recommends Simple Majority Vote Required

Explanatory Note: This Article would fund the reserve fund established by Article 23 in the amount of $50,000.

ARTICLE 25: FORWARD FUNDING OF THE TOWN'S PENSION ASSESSMENT

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of $300,000 from free cash for the purposes of forward funding the Town's pension assessment from the Middlesex County Retirement System; or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen
Finance Committee: Recommends Simple Majority Vote Required

Explanatory Note: This Article would forward fund the Town's pension assessment from the Middlesex County Retirement System in the amount of $300,000 for the purposes of realizing estimated future savings. Additional payments of $300,000 for two successive years (of which this is the first) will provide an estimated savings of $1.3 million dollars through full funding in 2035. Brief presentation to be made at Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 26: STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote transfer $949,139 from Free Cash or such other sum or sums of money, with $9,139 to be credited to the Stabilization Fund under the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, and $940,000 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
Finance Committee: Recommends Simple Majority Vote Required

Explanatory Note: This Article transfers $9,139 from Free Cash into the Town's Stabilization Fund and transfers $940,000 into the Town's Capital Stabilization Fund for a total transfer of $949,139.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT ARTICLES

ARTICLE 27: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT

To see if the Town will hear and act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2021 Community Preservation Act budget, and appropriate from the estimated FY 2021 Community Preservation Fund revenues:

- A sum of money equal to five percent, and not to exceed $____ to meet the administrative expenses and all other necessary and proper expenses of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2021.

And further, to reserve for future appropriation from the estimated FY 2021 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 $_____ more or less, for acquisition, creation and preservation of open space excluding land for recreational use, and
- A sum of money equal to $_____ more or less, for acquisition, preservation, restoration and rehabilitation of historic resources, and

- A sum of money equal to $_____ more or less, for acquisition, creation and preservation and support of community housing.

And the remainder sum of $_____ for the Community Preservation FY 2021 Budgeted Reserve.

Or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee
Board of Selectmen: Recommends
Finance Committee: Recommends Simple Majority Vote Required

Explanatory Note: Disbursement required by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under M.G.L. Chapter 44B for the estimated FY 2021 Community Preservation Fund revenues. Due to the unprecedented circumstances of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Community Preservation Committee has yet to formally meet to provide its formal recommendation and appropriations for this Article. The Community Preservation Committee will do so prior to the Annual Town Meeting and this information will be publicly available on the Town's website at www.ayer.ma.us and on file with the Town Clerk's Office prior to Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 28: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUND FY 2021 TRANSFER OF FUNDS

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Community Preservation Fund FY 2021 estimated annual revenues, the sum of $_____ to be added to the amount appropriated for the Community Preservation Committee FY 2021 administrative expenses under Article 27 of this Annual Town Meeting, such sum to be used for due diligence, including title searches and related administrative tasks, for potential open space acquisitions; or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee
Board of Selectmen: Recommends
Finance Committee: Recommends Simple Majority Vote Required

Explanatory Note: Due diligence for future appropriations by the Community Preservation Committee for general open space purposes. Due to the unprecedented circumstances of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Community Preservation Committee has yet to formally meet to provide its formal recommendation and appropriations for this Article. The Community Preservation Committee will do so prior to the Annual Town Meeting and this information will be publicly available on the Town's website at www.ayer.ma.us and on file with the Town Clerk's Office prior to Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 29: HISTORICAL RESOURCES INVENTORY PROJECT

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Community Preservation Fund (FY2021) Balance Reserve from Historic Resources Category the sum of money not-to-exceed $20,000 to support the Ayer Historical Commission's Historical Resources Inventory Project; or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee
Historical Commission: Recommends

Board of Selectmen: Recommends Simple Majority Vote Required
Finance Committee: Recommends

Explanatory Note: This article supports the continued inventory compilation of the Town of Ayer's resources (buildings/structures, neighborhoods and landscapes) which meet the Historical Commission's inclusion test, being of historic value to the town and properties over 50 years old, or those with significant history, style or structure. Due diligence for future appropriations by the Community Preservation Committee for general open space purposes. Due to the unprecedented circumstances of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Community Preservation Committee has yet to formally meet to provide its formal recommendation and appropriations for this Article. The Community Preservation Committee will do so prior to the Annual Town Meeting and this information will be publicly available on the Town's website at www.ayer.ma.us and on file with the Town Clerk's Office prior to Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 30: BYLAW AMENDMENT: CHANGE THE NAME OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO SELECT BOARD

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws for the purposes of changing the name of Board of Selectmen to that of Select Board, as follows; or take any action thereon or in relation thereto:

1. Delete the words "Board of Selectmen" and "Selectmen" in each place they appear in the Town's bylaws, and insert in their place the words "Select Board"; delete the word "Selectman" in each place it appears in the Town's bylaws and replace it with the words "Select Board Member"; and make any other changes to pronouns or other minor revisions to text to implement these amendments.
2. Add the following new Section 4 to Article V – Legal Affairs – in the Town's General Bylaws, which shall read as follows: "The Select Board shall have all the powers and duties of a Board of Selectmen for any lawful purpose, including but not limited to for purposes of the Massachusetts General Laws, these Bylaws and special acts applicable to the Town of Ayer."

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen Simple Majority Vote Required

Explanatory Note: This Article would amend the Town's General Bylaws for the sole purposes of changing the name of Board of Selectmen to that of Select Board for the purposes of modernization and inclusion in the name of the Town's Chief Executive Body.

ARTICLE 31: ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT: REDUCTION OF OFF-STREET PARKING FOR THE DOWNTOWN TRANSIT-ORIENTATED LIFESTYLE DISTRICT

To see if the Town of Ayer will amend the Ayer Zoning Bylaw by reducing the off-street parking space requirement for the T6 transect (Downtown Transit-Oriented Lifestyle District) in the Downtown / Park Street Form-Based Code District (DPSFBC) for all residential uses from those presently listed in Section 9.1.2 A.2 to one (1) space per dwelling unit regardless of the number of bedrooms. This amendment is for the T6 transect zone only. All other parking requirements found in Section 9.1.2 A. of the Ayer Zoning Bylaw will remain unchanged.

1. Insert the following text after the only sentence in Ayer Zoning Bylaw Section 9.1.2 A. 2 Residential Uses, by adding the following sentence**: Notwithstanding the requirements of the preceding sentence, in the T6 Zone (Downtown Transit-Oriented Lifestyle District) of the Downtown / Park Street Form-Based Code District (DPSFBC), dwelling shall only be required to provide 1 space per unit regardless of the number of bedrooms in the unit.**

or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen
Planning Board: To Report at Town Meeting Two-Thirds Majority Vote Required

Explanatory Note: The purpose of this article is to reduce the parking requirements for new residential units in the most densely developed part of the Downtown / Park Street Form-Based Code District from 1.5 spaces (studio and one-bedroom apartments) or 2 spaces (two-bedroom apartments) to 1 space per unit so as to encourage new residential development in the downtown core. Since this is only for the transit-oriented lifestyle district, parking demand is anticipated to be less than for more outlying districts.

ARTICLE 32: READOPT THE TOWN OF AYER GENERAL BYLAWS IN THEIR ENTIRETY

To see if the Town shall accept the renumbering and revision of the various bylaws of the Town from their original numbering or their numbering in the General Bylaws, as amended through October 28, 2019, to the numbering or codification, arrangement, sequence and captions and the comprehensive revisions to the text of the General Bylaws as set forth in the Final Draft of the "Bylaws and Regulations of the Town of Ayer, Massachusetts", dated _____, said codification having been done under the direction of the Board of Selectmen and Town Counsel, and said Code being a compilation and comprehensive revision of the present bylaws of the Town. All bylaws of a general and permanent nature, as amended, heretofore in force and not included in the Code shall be repealed, except that such repeal shall not affect any suit or proceeding pending as the result of an existing law, and such repeal shall not apply to or affect any bylaw, order or article heretofore adopted accepting or adopting the provisions of any statute of the commonwealth. These bylaws shall be referred to as the "Bylaws and Regulations of the Town of Ayer, Massachusetts" and a copy is available for viewing at the Town's website www.ayer.ma.us and will be available at the office of the Town Clerk if and when it is open to the public; or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen Simple Majority Vote Required

Explanatory Note: In accordance with Article 22 passed by the Ayer Town Meeting on May 8, 2017, the Town of Ayer contracted with "General Code" to perform a comprehensive review of the Town's General Bylaws. This Article would readopt all of the Town of Ayer's General Bylaws in accordance with the numbering, codification, arrangement, sequence and captions and the comprehensive revisions as set forth in the "Final Draft of the Bylaws and Regulations of the Town of Ayer, Massachusetts" dated _____. Due to the unprecedented circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town of Ayer is awaiting the Final Draft of the "Bylaws and Regulations of the Town of Ayer, Massachusetts", which upon receipt prior to Town Meeting will be available on the Town's website www.ayer.ma.us and on file with the Town Clerk's Office.

ARTICLE 33: READOPT THE TOWN OF AYER ZONING BYLAW IN ITS ENTIRETY

To see if the Town shall accept the renumbering and revision of the Zoning Bylaw of the Town from its original numbering, as amended through October 28, 2019, to the numbering or codification, arrangement, sequence and captions and the comprehensive revisions to the text of the Zoning Bylaw as set forth in the Final Draft of the Bylaws and Regulations of the Town of Ayer, Massachusetts, dated _____, said codification of the Zoning Bylaw having been done under the direction of the Planning Board, and being a compilation and comprehensive revision of the present Zoning Bylaw, including amendments thereto. All Zoning Bylaws, as amended, heretofore in force, shall be repealed, except that such repeal shall not affect any suit or proceeding pending as the result of an existing law. The Zoning Bylaw shall be codified as Chapter 320 of the "Bylaws and Regulations of the Town of Ayer, Massachusetts"; and a copy is available for viewing at www.ayer.ma.us and will be available at the office of the Town Clerk if and when it is open to the public; or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen
Planning Board: To Report at Town Meeting Two-Thirds Majority Vote Required

Explanatory Note: *In accordance with Article 22 passed by the Ayer Town Meeting on May 8, 2017, the Town of Ayer contracted with "General Code" to perform a comprehensive review of the Town's General Bylaws. This Article would readopt the Town of Ayer's Zoning Bylaw in accordance with the numbering, codification, arrangement, sequence and captions and the comprehensive revisions as set forth in the "Final Draft of the Bylaws and Regulations of the Town of Ayer, Massachusetts" dated _____ . Due to the unprecedented circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town of Ayer is awaiting the Final Draft of the "Bylaws and Regulations of the Town of Ayer, Massachusetts", which upon receipt prior to Town Meeting will be available on the Town's website www.ayer.ma.us and on file with the Town Clerk's Office.*

ARTICLE 34: STREET ACCEPTANCE: HAYMEADOW LANE; HOLLY RIDGE ROAD; AND APPLEBLOSSOM DRIVE

To see if the Town will vote to accept as Town public ways, Haymeadow Lane from Station 9+00 to Station 20+73.53; Holly Ridge Road from Station 0+00 to Station 13+68.54; and Appleblossom Drive from Station 0+00 to Station 5+00 in the Town of Ayer, County of Middlesex, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as heretofore laid out by the Board of Selectmen, as shown on a plan entitled "Ridge View Heights' Definitive Subdivision Plan of Land in Ayer as prepared by David E. Ross Associates," a copy which is on file with the Town Clerk. And to see if the Town will further vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by eminent domain, purchase, gift or otherwise the fee to or easements in said roadways, together with all related drainage, utility and other easements, or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen
Planning Board: To Report at Town Meeting Simple Majority Vote Required

Explanatory Note: This Article would authorize the acceptance of the portions of Haymeadow Lane, Holly Ridge Road, and Appleblossom Drive as contained in the Article as public ways in the Town of Ayer.

ARTICLE 35: GRANT OF EASEMENT TO NATIONAL GRID – GROTON STREET

To see if the will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to grant an easement to National Grid for the transmission of electric current upon a portion of Town-owned property which is located on the southerly side of Groton Street shown as "Parcel A" on a Plan of Land recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 63 of 2018 for the purposes of installing one pole with wires and cables installed thereon, and all necessary foundations, anchors, guys, braces, fittings, equipment and appurtenances referred to as the "Overhead System" over, across, under and upon the Town-owned property as shown on a sketch plan on file with the Town Clerk, on such terms and conditions and for such consideration as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into all agreements and to execute on behalf of the Town any and all instruments as may be necessary or convenient to effectuate the purpose of this Article; or take any action thereon or in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen Simple Majority Vote Required

Explanatory Note: This Article would authorize the Board of Selectmen to grant an easement to National Grid on Groton Street for the purposes of installing an "Overhead System" consisting of a utility pole with wires and cables for the purposes of providing utility services to the Ayer Rail Trail Parking Facility located at 3 Groton Street.

A True Copy Attest: Susan E. Copeland **Date:** April 10, 2020

Susan E. Copeland
Town Clerk

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.

Samuel A Sudup **Date:** April 10, 2020

Constable