

WORCESTER, SS.

To a Constable in the Town of Leicester,

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Leicester qualified to vote in Town Elections and Town Affairs to meet at the Town Hall Gymnasium, 3 Washburn Square, Leicester, MA on Tuesday, the third day of May 2022 at 7:00 PM, then and there to act on the following articles, namely:

The Annual Town Meeting opened at 7:03pm with approximately 200 people in attendance.

OPENING REMARKS

May 3, 2022

Good evening. I am Don Cherry, Jr., your Town Moderator. I'd like to welcome you all to the Annual Town Meeting, and to Thank You for taking an active role in your government.

Is there anyone attending a Town Meeting for the first time? Thank you for taking the time to exercise your rights as a voter and the freedom that you have to do so.

Per MA Law, I must inform all present that this meeting is being recorded for future broadcast on LCAC.

As Town Meeting Members, we are the legislative body here in Leicester. A review of our basic rules and procedures is listed in your meeting guides. That said, as your presiding officer, my primary role is to maintain an open, fair, and orderly meeting and to ensure that each member understands what we are doing. If anyone has a question, please ask.

As members of this town meeting, each of you has a voice and a right to be heard, should you choose. If any member of this town meeting wishes to speak through the moderator on an article on the floor, please approach the microphone with as much social distance as you are able. When you have finished your comments, please use the wipes at the microphone to sanitize it for the next person. As always, please state your name and address before speaking to an article. I will also remind all present that even if you vigorously disagree with your fellow voter at the microphone, they do have the floor and are entitled to the courtesy of speaking without heckling or interruption.

A couple of reminders with regards to the electronic voting clickers we use for voting. Use of the clickers means that every vote you cast is now secret.

These clickers need to be returned at the conclusion of this Town Meeting. The number sticker on each clicker is strictly to ensure that if someone does forget to return a clicker that the registrars have a mechanism to know who to call and ask for return. The tabulation system does record what votes are cast from any single device, it only totals yes and no votes.

Use of the devices is quite simple. Instead of calling for votes in favor and those against, I will simply call for a vote. At that time, simply press the "A" or Yes button if you are in favor of a motion, or the "B" or No button, if your desire is to disapprove a motion. Your choice will show on the small screen on the device. If you change your mind, simply press the other button, as the selection showing when the 15 second voting window closes is what is recorded.

The results will display on the screen, they will be recorded by the Town Clerk, and we will move to the next order of business.

Last Saturday marked the beginning of retirement for Donna Johnson, a longtime member of the staff at the Leicester Public Library. We wish Donna and her family well as she enters this next chapter in her life.

I do have a couple of recognitions that I need to make myself. Our Town Clerk, Debbie Davis has been a trusted partner and has become a friend during my time as moderator. Thanks, Debbie, for all you do.

As she has been in every aspect of my life for over 36 years, my wife Kathy has been a grounding and steady light through my time as town moderator. Thanks, honey.

For the record, I am in receipt of return of service of the warrant. Therefore, we may proceed.

**** Other Announcements ****

This is Donald Cherry's last Town Meeting as Moderator; he has decided to not seek re-election. He wants to spend time with his family. Donald's family is growing, he and Kathy have two grandchildren that they want to enjoy.

Donald has devoted 12 years to the Town as our Moderator. On a personal note, I (Deborah Davis) am humbled and honored to have served with such a phenomenal, upstanding individual. Thank you and enjoy the next chapter.

The Chairman of the Select Board Richard Antanavica presented Donald with a plaque in recognition of his dedicated service to the Town.

Before we begin the work on the articles listed in the warrant, I feel the need to review and clarify a couple of significant points. Last night, I attended the joint meeting of the Select Board and Finance Advisory Committee. During that meeting, both the Select Board and Finance Advisory Committee voted to recommend approval of the budget as listed in the published warrant.

At that meeting, I read the following prepared statement.

Mr. Chairman, members of the boards.

I cannot and will not allow a motion to significantly change portions of the town budget as listed in the posted warrant articles for the May 3, 2022, Annual Town Meeting for the Town of Leicester. I will not accept such a motion from members of these boards, not will I accept one from the floor.

There are very specific reasons why this is the position I must take.

First, as the elected presiding officer of town meetings, the moderator's roles include maintaining order and civil discourse during town meetings and ensuring that voters can express their opinions and ask their questions about the business before the meeting. Just as importantly, a moderator must ensure that debate and actions on the town hall floor stay within the confines of the articles as posted. There is no separating the posted warrant from those roles. Legally, the warrant serves two roles.

First, it informs, or in moderator speak, warns, the voters of the business that will be undertaken at a town meeting. The voters have a right to know what to expect will be on the floor at a town meeting. Secondly and just as importantly, it constrains the actions of town meeting members to stay within the scope of the articles as published.

The scope of an article limits actions that can substantially change what was announced in the warrant. The posting times are strictly limited by law so that voters have a chance to consider their actions, and if they feel the need, to garner support among likeminded voters to approve or disapprove an article.

If an article seeks to significantly affect a town department, either in the positive, or the negative, the leadership of said department deserves the ability to articulate what they believe are the benefits or detrimental effects of the proposed actions. The voters also deserve to have that information in a timely fashion so that they can make an informed decision.

During a town meeting, members of the board are afforded the time to support, justify or defend articles, because as the authors of the warrant, board members are considered subject matter experts. However, since members of the board are, once the meeting is underway, voters just like the

town meeting members on the floor, the rules and laws governing conduct of town meetings apply to you as well.

I am certain that I didn't make a ton of friends with this statement. I am simply trying to do the best job that I can, for both the Town of Leicester and every single voter.

Scope of the articles is, to some extent subjective. I think an appropriate rule of thumb is this test "Hey, if I had known that was what was going to be done, I would have come to the meeting."

It has come to my attention that there are concerns that I am trying to limit the voices and will of either the boards or town meeting members. Specifically, I understand that there may be concern that voters cannot make amendments to articles on the town hall floor. That is simply not the case. If you know me or have been involved in town meeting during my time as moderator, I would like to believe that I have proven to hold town meeting and its members in the highest regard. However, any motion has to be within the scope of an article.

Specifically, regarding my stance on Article 4, a six or seven figure change to a budget is a very big deal, and had they known it was going to be in play, I firmly believe a lot more people, frankly on both sides of the desired outcome, would have joined this meeting.

I have mentioned this several times from this very podium - Like every single thing on any town meeting warrant, the budget is constructed and reviewed at posted, announced open public meetings. Any citizen can attend these meetings and ask questions and offer input. The budget process, in particular takes months, and lots of meetings are involved, every one of them open to the public. Pretty much nobody but the board members attend. If you're curious, passionate, or sure changes are needed, go to those meetings.

For the record, members of both the Select Board and Finance Advisory stated that they would work on budget changes over the next few months and prepare changes for a fall Town Meeting. Propose all the changes you want, but give all parties involved, including potential town meeting members fair warning as to the proposed changes.

I will now accept any procedural motions for conduct of this meeting.

PROCEDURAL MOTION #1

Richard Antanavica moved that the Town vote to dispense with the reading of the warrant which is in the hands of the voters.

***VOTED BY A SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY (130-6) 1 abstain**

PROCEDURAL MOTION #2

Richard Antanavica moved that the Town vote to dispense with a hand count.

***VOTED BY A SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY (131-10) 4 abstain**

ARTICLE 1 PRIOR YEAR'S BILLS

To see if the Town will vote to approve to transfer or appropriate a sum of money to pay unpaid bills from a prior fiscal year or take any action thereon.

PROPOSED MOTION

Dianna Provencher moved that the Town vote to authorize the payment and transfer of \$983.10 from Free Cash for the payment of the following prior year bills:

Vendor	Date of Invoice	Amount
Design Tempture Control Inc	09/14/20	\$606.04
Design Tempture Control Inc	12/13/20	\$377.06
Total		\$983.10

ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (4-0-0)

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (5-0-0)

DESCRIPTION

This article is required for the payment of bills prior to July 1, 2021, that were not submitted by the close of the fiscal year. There are two bills for this town meeting, which are for HVAC work done at the Police Station and Hillcrest Country Club. The bills were misplaced.

VOTE REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE Requires a 4/5th's vote pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §64

***VOTED BY A SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY (118-9) 1 abstain**

ARTICLE 2 DEPARTMENT AND/OR WARRANT ARTICLE TRANSFERS - FY2022

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds in the Treasury, transfer from other budget accounts, adjust budgets, transfer to/from or adjust existing warrant articles such sums of money as may be necessary to defray expenses and fund various and diverse accounts in the Fiscal Year 2022 operating budget of the Town, any other warrant articles or take any action thereon.

PROPOSED MOTION #2A – BUDGET TRANSFERS

Allen R. Phillips, Sr. moved that the Town vote to transfer the following sums, totaling \$350,700 from and to the accounts listed in the table below:

From	Amount	Reason
Streetlights	\$30,000.00	Budget surplus due to installation of LED streetlights
Veterans Benefits	\$40,000.00	Budget surplus due to decrease in the total number of veterans receiving benefits
Employee Benefits	\$200,000.00	Budget surplus due to conservative projections
Unemployment	\$80,700.00	Budget surplus due to drop in unemployment claims
Total	\$350,700.00	
TO	AMOUNT	REASON
Legal	\$20,000.00	Continued greater than expected need for Town Counsel legal services

Reserve Fund	\$40,000.00	Replenishment of account from previous transfers
Accounting Wages	\$3,500.00	Projected wage shortfall
IT Expenses	\$2,000.00	Unexpected costs for data recovery
Town Clerk Wages	\$5,000.00	Projected wage shortfall
Building Wages	\$1,700.00	Additional funds for temporary inspectors needed to backfill staff
Highway Expenses	\$7,500.00	Projected costs for service on two inspections vehicles
Highway Expenses	\$5,000.00	Replenishment for costs associated with the setup of Bark Park
Highway Fuel	\$30,000.00	Budget shortfall due to unexpected increases in the price of gasoline
Snow and Ice	\$236,000.00	Seasonal overage of snow and ice expenses
Total	\$350,700.00	

ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (5-0-0)

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (5-0-0)

DESCRIPTION

This first request would amend the Fiscal Year 2022 operating budget by transferring funds from current fiscal year accounts that have forecast surpluses to accounts with projected shortfalls.

VOTE REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE Requires a simple majority vote per M.G.L. c. 40, § 5

2-A *VOTED BY A SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY (154-12) 1 abstain

PROPOSED MOTION #2B BUDGET TRANSFERS – AMBULANCE RECEIPTS RESERVED FOR APPROPRIATION

Allen R. Phillips, Sr. moved that the Town vote to transfer the following sums, totaling \$41,500 from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved account to the budget lines listed in the table below:

Account	Amount	Reason
Ambulance Wages	\$9,000.00	To put on extra shifts in June in anticipation of starting non-emergency transport services
Ambulance Maintenance	\$7,500.00	Budget underfunded
Ambulance Professional Services	\$10,000.00	Budget underfunded
Ambulance Supplies	\$15,000.00	Funds needed to purchase carbon monoxide meters, quick clot, and chest seals. These items are now required by the Commonwealth to be on every in-service ambulance in the State.
Total	\$41,500.00	

ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (4-0-0)

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (5-0-0)

DESCRIPTION

This request seeks to transfer funds from the Ambulance RRFA account to fund budget shortfalls in the Ambulance budget.

VOTE REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE Requires a simple majority vote per M.G.L. c. 40, § 5

2-B *VOTED BY A SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY (156-13) 1 abstain

PROPOSED MOTION #2C FUND TRANSFERS – WARRANT ARTICLES

Allen R. Phillips, Sr. moved that the Town vote to transfer the following sums, totaling \$201,773.59 from Free Cash to the following warrant articles listed in the table below:

Account	Amount	Reason
Emergency Management Supplies ATM 6/20 Art 7	\$4,993.59	To replenish the emergency supplies account after COVID-19 related expenditures, bringing the fund back up to \$30,000
FY22 Vocation Tuition 5/21 Art 6	\$196,780.00	Additional funding required for vocational tuition due to increased student enrollment
Total	\$201,773.59	

ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (4-0-0)

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (5-0-0)

DESCRIPTION

This request seeks to transfer funds from Free Cash to fund projected shortfalls in Town warrant articles.

VOTE REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE Requires a simple majority vote per M.G.L. c. 40, § 5

2-C *VOTED BY A SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY (150-19) 1 abstain

PROPOSED MOTION #2D – ESTABLISH AND FUND A WARRANT ARTICLE FOR PERSONAL PROPERTY VALUATION SERVICES

Allen R. Phillips, Sr. moved that the Town vote to establish and fund an account via transfer of \$13,500 of Free Cash for the purpose of funding FY 2023 personal property valuation services.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (4-0-0)

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (5-0-0)

DESCRIPTION

This request seeks to transfer funds from Free Cash to establish and fund professional personal property valuation services. This is an annual contract cost.

VOTE REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE Requires a simple majority vote per M.G.L. c. 40, § 5.

2-D *VOTED BY A SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY (153-17) 0 abstain

PROPOSED MOTION #2E – TRANSFER FUNDS FROM SELECTED ACCOUNTS TO FUND THE COST OF THE OIL LEAK AT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

Allen R. Phillips, Sr. moved that the Town vote to transfer the following amounts, totaling \$1,191,963.27 from and to the accounts listed in the table below:

<i>From</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Insurance Proceeds</i>	<i>\$500,000.00</i>
<i>FY2022 Leicester Public School Budget</i>	<i>\$691,963.27</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$1,191,963.27</i>
<i>To</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Emergency Deficit – FY21 School Oil Leak</i>	<i>\$1,191,963.27</i>

ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (4-0-0)

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (5-0-0)

DESCRIPTION

This request seeks to transfer funds from the insurance settlement account and the FY 2022 School budget to pay the costs associated with the oil leak at the Elementary School.

VOTE REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE Requires a simple majority vote per M.G.L. c. 40, § 5

2-E *VOTED BY A SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY (141-31) 0 abstain

ARTICLE 3 ELECTED OFFICIALS SALARIES

To see what compensation the Town will vote to pay elected officials or take any action thereon.

PROPOSED MOTION

John Shocik moved that the Town vote to set the rate of compensation to pay elected officials for Fiscal Year 2023 as detailed in the May 3, 2022, Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

FISCAL YEAR 2022 ELECTED OFFICIALS PAY RATES	
POSITION	PAY RATE
TOWN CLERK	\$81,090
SELECT BOARD – CHAIR	\$882
SELECT BOARD – MEMBERS (4) each	\$724
SCHOOL COMMITTEE – CHAIR	\$447
SCHOOL COMMITTEE – MEMBERS (4) each	\$197
PLANNING BOARD – CHAIR	\$320
PLANNING BOARD – MEMBERS (4) each	\$276
MODERATOR	\$81
BOARD OF HEALTH – CHAIR	\$320
BOARD OF HEALTH – MEMBERS (2) each	\$276
ASSESSOR – MEMBERS (3) each	\$597
TOTAL ELECTED SALARIES	\$90,271

ADVISORY

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (4-0-0)

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (5-0-0)

DESCRIPTION

Compensation for elected officials is set by Town Meeting. The proposed FY 2023 elected officials pay rate is the same as approved by the voters for FY 2022 with the exception of the Town Clerk.

VOTE REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE Requires a simple majority vote per M.G.L. c. 41, §108

***VOTED BY A SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY (152-11) 2 abstain**

Richard Antanavica moved that Article 4 be held and voted on last after all other warrant articles have been acted upon, and that the Town Meeting act upon all those remaining articles in the warrant in the order of their numerical sequence.

***FAILED (44-117) 3 abstain**

Thomas Buckley moved the question so Town Meeting could vote on the budget.

***VOTED BY A SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY (152-17) 1 abstain**

ARTICLE 4 FY 2023 OPERATING BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of Town departments and Town accounts for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2022, and ending on June 30, 2023, as listed in the May 3, 2022, Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant or take any action thereon.

PROPOSED MOTION

Richard Antanavica moved that the Town vote to approve the budgets of the several Town departments and Town Accounts as printed in the Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2022, in the aggregate amount of \$31,372,910 and to fund this amount from the following sources:

<i>Transfer from other revenue:</i>	<i>\$35,000</i>
<i>Transfer from Free Cash:</i>	<i>\$316,667</i>

And the balance of the funds in the remaining sum of \$31,021,243 shall be raised and appropriated by taxation.

DEPT #	DEPARTMENT NAME	FY2021 BUDGET	FY2022 BUDGET	FY2023 TOWN ADMIN	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
111	LEGAL					
	TOTAL	209,000	80,798	72,045	-8,753	-10.83%
114	MODERATOR					
	TOTAL	151	151	151	0	0.00%
122	SELECT BOARD					
	TOTAL	351,112	306,431	314,282	7,851	2.56%
130	RESERVE FUND					
	TOTAL	50,000	50,000	50,000	0	0.00%
131	ADVISORY BOARD					
	TOTAL	1,325	1,325	1,325	0	0.00%
135	ACCOUNTANT					
	TOTAL	143,619	146,149	157,479	11,330	7.75%
141	ASSESSORS					
	TOTAL	123,911	134,613	132,457	-2,156	-1.60%
145	TREASURER/COLL ECTOR					
	TOTAL	166,411	182,870	173,744	-9,126	-4.99%
147	TAX TITLE					
	TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0%
152	PERSONNEL BD					
	TOTAL	250	275	275	0	0.00%
155	IT DEPARTMENT					

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	TOTAL	162,060	184,060	189,060	5,000	2.72%
161	TOWN CLERK					
	TOTAL	112,628	126,018	139,239	13,221	10.49%
162	ELECTIONS & REGISTRATIONS					
	TOTAL	40,500	36,500	41,700	5,200	14.25%
180	DEVELOPMENT & INSPECTIONAL SERVICES					
	TOTAL	265,332	267,083	268,589	1,506	0.56%
192	TOWN OWNED BLDG MAINT					
	TOTAL	68,281	48,281	48,281	0	0.00%
197	TOWN HALL BLDG MAINTENANCE					
	TOTAL	63,909	86,909	86,909	0	0.00%
198	TOWN HALL TELEPHONES					
	TOTAL	6,400	6,400	6,400	0	0.00%
199	OTHER - GENERAL GOV					
	TOTAL	66,451	58,564	33,100	-25,464	-43.48%
DEPT #	DEPARTMENT NAME	FY2021 BUDGET	FY2022 BUDGET	FY2023 TOWN ADMIN	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
210	POLICE DEPT					
	TOTAL	2,033,475	2,271,573	2,362,250	90,677	3.99%
220	FIRE DEPT					
	TOTAL	329,398	390,434	365,963	-24,470	-6.27%
231	AMBULANCE					
	TOTAL	446,123	584,736	Enterprise	-584,736	-100.00%
232	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT					
	TOTAL	4,813	4,889	4,967	78	1.60%
241	CODE DEPT					
	TOTAL	62,083	74,007	128,667	54,660	73.86%
292	ANIMAL CONTROL					
	TOTAL	33,934	34,444	34,954	510	1.48%
296	INSECT PEST CONTROL					
	TOTAL	7,850	7,850	7,850	0	0.00%
310	LEICESTER PULIC SCHOOLS					
	TOTAL	17,174,399	17,582,550	17,839,070	256,520	1.46%
420	HIGHWAY DEPT					
	TOTAL	957,002	1,019,546	1,041,814	22,268	2.18%
423	SNOW & ICE					
	TOTAL	121,000	121,000	121,000	0	0.00%
	STREETLIGHTS					

424	TOTAL	58,000	58,000	35,000	-23,000	-39.66%
541	COUNCIL ON AGING					
	TOTAL	101,546	107,239	109,342	2,103	1.96%
543	VETERANS SERVICES					
	TOTAL	126,613	126,748	108,336	-18,412	-14.53%
545	VETERANS GRAVES REG					
	TOTAL	2,400	2,400	2,400	0	0.00%
610	PUBLIC LIBRARY					
	TOTAL	225,435	231,071	239,386	8,315	3.60%
630	PARKS & RECREATION					
	TOTAL	6,450	6,450	6,450	0	0.00%
691	HISTORICAL COMM					
	TOTAL	950	950	950	0	0.00%
692	MEMORIAL DAY COMM					
	TOTAL	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	0.00%
DEPT #	DEPARTMENT NAME	FY2021 BUDGET	FY2022 BUDGET	FY2023 TOWN ADMIN	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
710	MATURING DEBT PRINCIPAL					
	TOTAL	1,155,327	1,026,117	1,218,733	192,616	18.77%
751	MATURING DEBT INTEREST					
	TOTAL	369,949	331,047	293,828	-37,219	-11.24%
752	TEMPORARY LOAN INTEREST					
	TOTAL	20,665	22,665	216,700	194,035	856.10%
753	BOND ISSUE					
	TOTAL	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0.00%
911	WORC REG RETIREMENT					
	TOTAL	1,456,243	1,556,343	1,717,353	161,010	10.35%
912	WORKER COMPENSATION					
	TOTAL	166,248	191,185	219,863	28,678	15.00%
913	UNEMPLOYMENT COMP					
	TOTAL	141,650	141,650	142,000	350	0.25%
914	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS					
	TOTAL	3,045,765	2,959,175	3,117,782	158,607	5.36%
945	BONDING & INSURANCE					

911	TOTAL	216,750	249,263	299,116	49,853	20.00%
	BECKER OPERATING EXPENSES					
	TOTAL	0	0	20,000	20,000	
Grand Total – All Budgets		30,099,509	30,821,859	31,372,910	551,051	1.79%

ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting (5-0-0)

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting (5-0-0)

DESCRIPTION

This is the fiscal year 2023 operating budget for municipal and school services. Property tax proposed to be levied is within the allowances of Proposition 2 ½. We are utilizing the Governor's proposed revenue estimates for local aid. This financial plan meets at the minimum needs of every department and continues to move the Town forward in a sustainable direction. The budget process has been challenging this year due to a number of significant increases in non-discretionary areas of the budget including health insurance and retirement assessments. The FY 2023 budget is \$551,051 greater than the FY 2022 budget, and overall increase of 1.79%. Please note budget allocations as listed below:

Department	FY 22 Budget	FY 23 Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Municipal Budgets	6,760,763	6,287,365	-473,398	-7.00%
School Budget	17,582,550	17,839,070	256,520	1.46%
Unclassified Budget	6,478,545	7,246,475	767,930	11.85%
Totals	30,821,858	31,372,910	551,052	1.79%

The adjusted budget increases are shown in the tables below:

	\$ Change	% Change
FY 2023 Municipal Budget change	-473,398	-7.00%
Add: Movement of Ambulance budget from general fund to enterprise fund	641,219	
Deduct: \$50,000 taken from the School Budget for third Highway position	-50,000	
Municipal Net Budget Increase	117,821	1.74%

School Budget Increase	256,520	1.46%
Add: \$50,000 taken from the School Budget for third Highway position	50,000	
School Net Budget Increase	306,520	1.74%

Municipal amount/percentage of the municipal/school portions of the FY 2023 Budget	6,287,365	26.06%
School amount/percentage of the municipal/school portions of the FY 2023 Budget	17,839,070	73.94%
Total	24,126,435	100.00%

VOTE REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE Requires a simple majority vote per M.G.L. c. 40, § 5

***VOTED BY A SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY (133-38) 1 abstain**

Nathan Hagglund made a motion to reconsider Article 4 pertaining to the Budget.

***FAILED (41-122) 2 abstain**

ARTICLE 5 VOCATIONAL TUITION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money as may be necessary to fund the Vocational Tuition expenses for Leicester students for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 or take any action thereon.

PROPOSED MOTION

Herbert Duggan moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$1,023,000 for Vocational Tuition expenses for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2022.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (4-0-0)

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (5-0-0)

DESCRIPTION

Chapter 74 of the Mass General Laws governs vocational technical education programs in public school districts. This article was moved out of the line-item budget and into a separate warrant article starting in FY16. Tracking these costs independently allows for more accurate accounting of the costs associated with Leicester students attending other schools for vocational education.

VOTE REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE Requires a simple majority vote per M.G.L. c. 40, § 5

***VOTED BY A SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY (138-10) 2 abstain**

ARTICLE 6 CENTRAL MASS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION ANNUAL ASSESSMENT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to fund the FY 2023 assessment from the Central Mass Regional Planning Commission, said assessment to be based on a per capita rate, or take any other action thereon.

PROPOSED MOTION

Dianna Provender moved that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$3,301 to fund the FY 2023 assessment from the Central Mass Regional Planning Commission, said assessment to be based on a per capita rate of \$.30087.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (4-0-0)

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (5-0-0)

DESCRIPTION

In accordance with M.G.L. c. 40B, § 7, the Central Mass Regional Planning Commission requires member municipalities to pay the costs and expenses of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning District each fiscal year. Leicester is a part of this District. The assessment is based on the population of the Town as it appears in the most recent national census (2020). The payment of this assessment will maintain the Town's services provided by the District.

VOTE REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE Requires a simple majority vote per M.G.L. c. 40, § 5

***VOTED BY A SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY (137-11) 0 abstain**

ARTICLE 7 FUNDING OPERATIONAL COSTS OF THE FORMER BECKER COLLEGE CAMPUS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to fund operational costs for the former Becker College Campus or take any action thereon.

PROPOSED MOTION

Allen R. Phillips, Sr. moved that the Town transfer \$350,000 from Free Cash to fund operational costs for the former Becker College Campus.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (4-0-0)

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (5-0-0)

DESCRIPTION

This article seeks funding for the costs to operate the former Becker College campus, including utilities, insurance, grounds maintenance, and security. The buildings would not be open during this period. Free cash funding is requested to be used while the Town determines the actual long-term cost of operating the portions of the campus to be retained for municipal use.

VOTE REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE - Requires a simple majority vote per M.G.L. c. 40, § 5

***VOTED BY A SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY (125-14) 1 abstain**

ARTICLE 8 ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EMS (AMBULANCE SERVICE) ENTERPRISE ACCOUNT

To see if the Town will vote to establish a EMS (Ambulance Service) Enterprise Fund, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53 F 3/4, said fund to be funded by fees, charges or other funding received for the provision of Emergency Medical and Ambulance services, and furthermore, to transfer all funds held in the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account to this fund, said transfer to be the date of passage of this article.

PROPOSED MOTION

Herbert Duggan moved that the Town vote to establish a EMS (Ambulance Service) Enterprise Fund, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, § 53F ¾, said fund to be funded by fees, charges or other funding received for the provision of Emergency Medical and Ambulance services, and furthermore, to transfer all funds held in the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account to this fund, said transfer to be effective upon passage of this article.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (4-0-0)

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (5-0-0)

DESCRIPTION

Funding for the EMS Department was previously included in the general fund budget, with the receipts collected from ambulance services and associated fees available as a general fund revenue. Creating an enterprise fund for these services will allow the funds to be exclusively used for emergency medical services. An appropriation limit for this fund is required to be set annually. This appropriation request appears in Article 9 of this warrant.

VOTE REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE Requires a simple majority vote per M.G.L. c. 44, § 53F¾

***VOTED BY A SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY (107-20) 0 abstain**

ARTICLE 9 FY 2023 EMS (AMBULANCE) ENTERPRISE ACCOUNT APPROPRIATION

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of monies to fund the FY 2023 expenses of the EMS (Ambulance) Enterprise Fund, as established by the vote under Article 8 of the May 3, 2022, Annual Town Meeting, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53 F 1/2, said appropriation to be funded from ambulance receipts, charges, and other income as well as an appropriation from the general fund, or act on anything relating thereon.

PROPOSED MOTION

Herbert Duggan moved that the Town vote to appropriate up to \$733,542 to fund the FY 2023 expenses of the EMS (Ambulance) Fund, as established by the vote under Article 8 of the May 3, 2022, Annual Town Meeting, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, § 53F 1/2, said appropriation to apportioned and funded as follows:

FY 2023 EMS (AMBULANCE) BUDGET	FY21 Budget	FY22 Budget	FY23 Budget	Dollar Change	Percent Change
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Salaries		358,489	484,102	633,808	149,706	30.92%
Expenses		87,634	100,634	99,734	-900	-0.89%
Total Appropriation		446,123	584,736	733,542	148,406	25.45%

***\$657,438 anticipated to be charged to the EMS (Ambulance) Enterprise fund
\$76,104 anticipated to be charged to the general fund***

ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (4-0-0)

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (5-0-0)

DESCRIPTION

This is the first year of the EMS (Ambulance) Enterprise Account. The EMS salary line item has been increased due to a rise in call volume, and to fund half of the annual salary of the Fire Chief (\$45,720), who in his full-time capacity oversees EMS. The EMS budget still includes \$76,104 in funding from the General Fund. The goal is to have the fund fully self-supporting in FY 2024.

VOTE REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE Requires a simple majority vote per *M.G.L. c. 44, § 53F ½*

Correction was made throughout the article permission by the Attorney and the Moderator § 53F ¾ to § 53F ½

***VOTED BY A SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY (113-18) 0 abstain**

ARTICLE 10 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to fund stormwater management operations throughout the Town, said funds to be expended by the Highway Department, or take any action thereon.

PROPOSED MOTION

John Shocik moved that the Town vote to transfer \$69,000 from the Free Cash to a special article for stormwater management throughout the Town, said funds to be expended by the Highway Department.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (4-0-0)

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (5-0-0)

DESCRIPTION

This article funds Stormwater management operations, including operations, professional services and reporting requirements for the Town's State mandated MS-4 permit.

VOTE REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE Requires a simple majority vote per *M.G.L. c. 40, § 5*

***VOTED BY A SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY (119-8) 0 abstain**

ARTICLE 11 FY 2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to fund the Capital Improvement Plan budget beginning July 1, 2022 and authorize the Select Board to enter into lease purchase agreement(s) for a term of years and to transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay for the initial installments of the lease/purchase agreement(s), or take any action thereon.

PROPOSED MOTION

John Shocik moved that the Town vote to transfer \$142,129 from Free Cash to fund the Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Improvement Plan budget for the projects/items recommended by the Capital Committee, as listed:

DEPARTMENT	ITEM	AMOUNT
Town wide	Additional Funding: Highway Fuel Island	\$50,300
Police	Additional Item: Police Carport	\$35,000
Fire	Additional Funding: Rochdale Fire Station Roof	\$30,000
Highway	Replacement Garage Doors	\$26,817
	Total FY 2023 Capital Plan	\$142,129

CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE RECOMENDATION

Favorable action (5-0-0)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (5-0-0)

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (5-0-0)

DESCRIPTION

The FY 2023 capital plan has three recommended projects/items, two of which were recommended and approved in previous years but required additional funding to cover increased labor and materials cost. The single new item is being recommended as a safety measure for staff. All other capital requests are being held until the High School is relocated to the former Becker property.

VOTE REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE Requires a simple majority vote per M.G.L. c. 40, § 5

After much discussion town meeting member Kevin Bergin asked to move the question. The vote was 105-9-0

***VOTED BY A SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY (108-11) 0 abstain**

ARTICLE 12 ESTABLISH REVOLVING FUND ANNUAL SPENDING LIMITS

To see if the Town will vote to set annual spending limits for revolving accounts as detailed in the hands of the voters and as defined by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, § 53E½ for Fiscal Year 2023, or take any action thereon.

PROPOSED MOTION

Dianna Provencher moved that the Town vote to set annual spending limits for revolving accounts as detailed in the warrant and as defined by Mass General Laws, Chapter 44, § 53E½, for Fiscal Year 2023.

	<u>Revolving Fund</u>	<u>Spending Limit:</u>	
	Former Becker Property	\$500,000	
	Inspectional Services	\$50,000	
	Health Clinics	\$5,000	
	Senior Center Programs	\$10,000	
	Fuel Usage	\$35,000	
	Town Hall	\$15,000	
	Recycling	\$30,000	
	Police Training	\$5,000	
	Recreation	\$20,000	
	One-to-one Technology	\$25,000	
	DIS Fees	\$5,000	
	Library Copier	\$5,000	
<u>ADVISORY</u>	Tree Lighting	\$20,000	<u>COMMITTEE</u>

RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (5-0-0)

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (5-0-0)

DESCRIPTION

Under MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E½ as amended through the Municipal Modernization Act of 2016, Town Meeting is required to vote on the amount that may be spent from each revolving fund established through the Town's General Bylaws during the upcoming fiscal year prior to July 1st.

VOTE REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE Requires a simple majority vote per M.G.L. c. 44, § 53E½

***VOTED BY A SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY (105-10) 0 abstain**

ARTICLE 13 CHANGE THE MOOSE HILL WATER COMMISSIONER POSITIONS FROM ELECTED TO APPOINTED

To rescind the action of the Special Town Meeting of January 17, 1977, Article 5 creating an elected Moose Hill Water Commission; and to further re-establish the Moose Hill Water Commission as an appointed three-member Commission, said appointments to be made by the Leicester Select Board, with current Commission members serving until their term expires.

PROPOSED MOTION

***Allen R. Phillips, Sr.* moved that the Town will vote in accordance with M.G.L. c. 41, § 1B to convert the Moose Hill Water Commission from an elected to an appointed board of the Town, said appointments to be made by the Leicester Select Board, with current Commission members serving until their term expires.**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (4-0-0)

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (5-0-0)

DESCRIPTION

The Select Board believes that the Town is better served by having the Moose Hill Water Commissioners be appointed rather than elected, as their autonomy as elected officials could put them in conflict with the goals and financial planning of the Select Board. There will be also a ballot question at the June Annual Town Election regarding this matter as per MGL, changing an elected position to an appointed one requires ballot action.

VOTE REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE - Requires a simple majority vote.

***VOTED BY A SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY (83-29) 2 abstain**

ARTICLE 14 VOTE TO REMOVE THE POSITION OF POLICE CHIEF FROM CIVIL SERVICE AND TO PETITION THE LEGISLATURE FOR SPECIAL LEGISLATION FOR THE SAME

To see if the Town will vote to remove the position of Police Chief from Civil Service, as voted through Article 19 of the April 8, 1958, Special Town Meeting, and furthermore, for the Town to petition the Legislature to rescind the legislation passed via Chapter 85 of the Acts of 1959, which placed the position of Police Chief under Civil Service.

PROPOSED MOTION

***Allen R. Phillips, Sr.* moved that the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to file a petition with the General Court to repeal Chapter 85 of the Acts of 1959, which placed the**

position of Police Chief under Civil Service pursuant to the vote under Article 19 of the April 8, 1959, Special Town Meeting, in order to remove the position of Police Chief from Civil Service.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (4-0-0)

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (5-0-0)

DESCRIPTION

Removing this position from civil service will allow the Town greater control and flexibility when searching for qualified candidates for this critical Town position.

VOTE REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE: Requires a simple majority

***VOTED BY A SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY (91-16) 0 abstain**

ARTICLE 15 REMOVE ALL POLICE PATROLMEN POSITIONS FROM CIVIL SERVICE

To see if the Town will vote to remove all Police patrolmen from Civil Service as voted at a town election on March 3, 1969.

PROPOSED MOTION

Herbert Duggan moved that the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to file a petition with the General Court to remove all police patrol and supervisory positions, including sergeant and lieutenant positions from Civil Service.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (4-0-0)

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (5-0-0)

DESCRIPTION

Civil Service was brought in to oversee the hiring of patrol positions through an election that was held on March 3, 1969. This Article is recommended for passage because using the Civil Service system has become difficult and inflexible and hampers the recruitment process. The patrolman's union has negotiated a two-year contract that is contingent on the repeal of Civil Service participation.

VOTE REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE: Requires a simple majority

***VOTED BY A SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY (92-14) 1 abstain**

ARTICLE 16 REVOKE OCTOBER 16, 2018, ACCEPTANCE OF MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS CHAPTER 53, SECTION 18B (INFORMATION RELATING TO QUESTIONS ON TOWN BALLOT; CONTENTS; WRITTEN ARGUMENTS BY PROPONANTS AND OPPONENTS

To see if the Town will vote to revoke the acceptance MGL Chapter 53, Section 18B, which was passed at the October 16, 2018, special town meeting, which requires information on town ballot questions to be addressed via written arguments from question proponents and opponents, be vetted by Town Counsel, and made available to the voters of the Town.

PROPOSED MOTION

John Shocik moved that the Town will vote to revoke the acceptance M.G.L. c. 53, § 18B, under Article 11 of the October 16, 2018, Special Town Meeting, which requires information on town ballot questions to be addressed via written arguments from question proponents and opponents, be vetted by Town Counsel, and made available to the voters of the Town.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (4-0-0)

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION

Favorable action (5-0-0)

DESCRIPTION: This acceptance of M.G.L. c. 53, § 18B required the town to put out general information out to residents describing the purposes of ballot questions, as well as pro and con arguments. The Town elected not to utilize the law for the purchase of the former Becker College campus, due to an extensive marketing, communications and public participation process, and had to craft special legislation to allow for the purchase of the property. While the law has an admirable goal, it is unwieldy and expensive to use properly.

VOTE REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE: Requires a simple majority per M.G.L. c. 53, § 18

***FAILED (45-54) 2 abstain**

At 10:00pm Richard Antanavica made a motion to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting. Once the motion was made the body made a mass exodus.

***VOTED BY A MAJORITY (13-02) 0 abstain**

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah K. Davis, Town Clerk

