



Select Board Office

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Warrant Article Explanations

May 16, 2023

6:30P.M.

ARTICLE #1 Explanation: This transfer from existing funds covers negotiated agreements for staff for a total of 50 plus employees in the present fiscal year. These funds come from several Salary Reserve Accounts and available funds, set aside to cover these costs. Funds also cover backfill expenses for people out with on the job injuries and sickness.

ARTICLE #2 Explanation: The Town experienced snow and icing events beyond what was budgeted, some of which required overtime and the use of outside hired vendors. The cost of road salt to treat roads and increased hourly rates for outside vendors contributed heavily to these expenses. This will allow the Town to close out its books in balance without a snow/ice deficit as of June 30th. Otherwise the deficit would be added to next fall's tax bill.

ARTICLE #3 Explanation: This article allows us to make our annual deposit to the Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) Trust Fund established at Town Meeting years ago. The Town currently pays for post-employment health care expenses on a pay as you go basis. This type of fund, which was authorized by State law, provides a tool for municipalities to recognize the liability and begin to cover future costs. Eventually this fund will hold several hundred thousand dollars to cover health costs. Annually contributing to it is recommended by our outside Independent Auditors and is looked upon favorably by our Bond Rating Agencies.

ARTICLE #4 Explanation: The Town Budget process with positive recommendation from the Capital Expenditures Committee for FY 24 set forth equipment and infrastructure needs that were approved by the Select Board and Finance Committee. Action at Special Town Meeting will allow for ordering items such as the one ton DPW Truck with plow package sooner due to longer lead times to obtain needed equipment. It will also permit us to fund paving projects needed around town.