

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF WHATELY
April 26, 2016**

Pursuant to the recorded warrant the annual meeting of the Town of Whately held at the Whately Elementary School, 273 Long Plain Road was called to order Tuesday, April 26, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. by Moderator Richard Smith. Town Clerk, Lynn M. Sibley read the Constable's return of the warrant. Virginia Allis and Maryellen Cranston acted as checkers and assigned voting placards to those voters attending the meeting. Maximum attendance was 113 voters. The Moderator appointed Robert Halla and Charles Peter Williams to serve as counters. This meeting was being broadcast by FCAT as well.

Clerk's Note: Jonathan Edwards, Chair of the Selectboard acknowledged Bill Smith who retired recently as the 2015 recipient of the Annual Report dedication. Chair Edwards spoke highly of Bill's years of service to the town as Water Superintendent and Frontier School Committee member. Jonathan also commended the work of all the town employees.

Article 1. Upon motion made and seconded, it was

Voted that the town accept the Annual Reports of the officers of the Town, and to hear any other reports of the Boards and Committees.

Moderator declared article passed in the affirmative.

Article 2. Upon motion made and seconded, it was

Voted that the town authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2016, in accordance with the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year, in accordance with the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17.

Moderator declared article passed in the affirmative

Article 3. Upon motion made and seconded, it was

Voted that the town authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to enter into compensating balance agreements with banking institutions having their principal offices in the Commonwealth during Fiscal Year 2017, as permitted by General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53F.

Moderator declared article passed in the affirmative

Article 4. Upon motion made and seconded, it was

Voted that the town apply for, accept, and expend any federal, state or private grant monies on behalf of the Town and authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen to borrow in anticipation of reimbursement.

Moderator declared article passed in the affirmative

Article 5. Upon motion made and seconded, it was

Voted that the town authorize revolving funds for certain Town departments under General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53 E ½ for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016.

Revolving Fund	Authorized to Spend Fund	Revenue Source	Use of Fund	FY2017 Spending Limit	Disposition of FY17 Fund Balance	Spending Restrictions or Comments
Dog Licensing and Control Revolving Fund	Town Clerk, Animal Control Officer	Dog license fees, fines and late charges	Any lawful expense related to dog licensing, animal control officer operating expenses, or any expense related to the implementation of the Town's Animal Control By-law	\$2,000	\$2,000 of balance available for expenditure, remainder to revert to General Fund	Funds may not be spent for the salaries of any full-time employees
Recreation Revolving Fund	Recreation Commission by majority vote of its membership	Sports program registration fees, building and park rental fees, donations and proceeds from fund-raisers	Any lawful expense related to the activities, programs, and facilities operated by the Recreation Commission	\$20,000	Balance available for expenditure	Funds may not be spent for the salaries of any full-time employees
Library Revolving Fund	Trustees of S. W. Dickinson Memorial Library, by majority vote of its membership	Fees from overdue books and videos and fees from copy machine use	Any lawful expense associated with the activities and programs of the S. W. Dickinson Memorial Library	\$1,000	Balance available for expenditure	Funds may not be spent for the salaries of any full-time employees
Public Hearings Revolving Fund	Town Clerk	Fees for costs of public hearings	Costs related to hearings: advertising, recording fees, and other expenses	\$2,500	Balance available for expenditure.	Funds may not be spent for the salaries of any full-time employees
Cordwood Sales Revolving Fund	Tree Warden, Highway Superintendent	Revenues from sale of cordwood.	Purchase of replacement trees on Town property.	\$2,500	Balance available for expenditure	Funds may not be spent for the salaries of any full-time employees.
Cemetery Commissioners Revolving Fund	Cemetery Commissioners	Opening Graves Fees	Costs of contractor expenses for digging graves and Commissioners' expenses for burial	\$1,000	Balance available for expenditure	Funds may not be spent for the salaries of any full-time employees
Trench Permit	Highway Superintendent and Police Department	Trench Permit Fees	Costs of enforcement of Trench Permit Regulation	\$1,000	Balance available for expenditure	Funds may not be spent for the salaries of any full-time employees
Recycling and Solid Waste Revolving Fund	Solid Waste Committee and Board of Health	Recycling Revenues	Any lawful expense associated with the operation of the Town's solid waste and recycling programs, membership in and services of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District and purchase of recycled content or environmentally preferable products.	\$15,000	Balance available for expenditure	Funds may not be spent for the salaries of any full-time employees
Total Spending:				\$45,000		

Moderator declared article passed in the affirmative

Article 6: Upon motion made and seconded, it was

Voted to fix the salaries or compensation of the elected officers of the Town for Fiscal Year 2017 as follows:

	FY17 (2.0% COLA)
Moderator	\$120.57
Selectmen – Chair	\$1,838.67
Members	\$1,687.97
Town Clerk	\$20,941.26
Assessors – Chair	\$1,838.68
Members	\$1,687.97
Water Commissioners	\$723.42
School Committee	\$348.55
Elector: Oliver Smith Will	\$10.38
Board of Health – Chair	\$874.13
Members	\$723.42
Constables	\$13.67/hr.
Cemetery Commissioners – Sextons	\$12.40/hr.
Opening Graves Fee	\$600.00/grave

Moderator declared article passed in the affirmative

Article 7: Upon motion made and seconded, it was

Voted that the Town appropriate **\$140,742.00** or any other sum or sums of money from the Water Department Enterprise Fund to finance the operation of the Water Department for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 (detail below):

I. Water Enterprise Revenues	FY 2017
User Fees	\$140,742.00
Enterprise Available Funds	\$0.00
Investment Income	\$0.00
Total Revenues	\$140,742.00
II. Costs Appropriated for the Enterprise Fund	
Direct Costs	
Salaries	\$32,235.00
Operating expenses	\$70,350.00
Total Costs Appropriated for Enterprise Fund	\$102,585.00
III. Costs Appropriated for General Fund to be charged to the Enterprise Fund	

Indirect Costs	
Health Insurance	\$15,028.00
Medicare & Social Security	1,213.00
Workers Comp. Ins.	592.00
Life Insurance	66.00
Retirement	4,628.00
Property Insurance	3,986.00
Selectmen's Office	1,988.00
Legal Counsel	506.00
Audit	165.00
Town Buildings	1,862.00
Treasurer/Collector Dept.	6,047.00
Accountant	587.00
Harpers Payroll	53.00
Payroll Preparation	36.00
Town Vehicles Fuel	1,400.00
Total Costs Appropriated for the General Fund	\$38,157.00
Total Costs	\$140,742.00

Moderator declared article passed in the affirmative

Article 8: Upon motion made and seconded, it was

Voted to act on the report of the Finance Committee for the Fiscal Year 2017 budget and to raise and appropriate money for the operation of the Town's departments and the payment of debt service and all other necessary and proper expenses for the year.

(Note: Water Department Enterprise Fund costs are appropriated in **Article 7**)

Proposed Fiscal Year 2017 Budget

The Finance Committee recommends that the amounts shown in the column captioned "FY17 Finance Committee Recommendations with Water Removed" be raised or appropriated or transferred from available funds for FY17 department operating purposes, debt service and other Town expenses.

A presentation was made by the Finance Committee Chair, Paul Antaya.

**FY17
Finance
Committee
Recommendations
With Water
Removed**

Gen. Govt.

Selectmen's Office	97,390.00
Legal Counsel	24,794.00
Town Offices-Supplies	2,750.00
Audit	5,335.00
Town Report	500.00
Town Bldg. Oper.	60,178.00
Town Clerk	31,486.00
Town Accountant	18,973.00
Harpers Payroll	5,149.00
Payroll Preparation	3,464.00
Acct Software	750.00
Treasurer/Collector	48,919.00
Tax Takings	5,000.00
Assessors	37,138.00
Planning Board	1,982.00
Zoning Bd. Appeals	2,250.00
Finance Comm.	470.00
Moderator	150.00
Cons. Comm.	500.00
Historical Comm.	200.00
Agricultural Commission	1,500.00
Computer replacement	3,000.00
Connect CTY	2,600.00
Website Update	1,500.00
Housing Committee	200.00
Municipal Building Comm.	800.00
Sub-Total:	356,978.00

Cult., Rec., Serv.

Tri-Town Beach	4,440.00
Recreation Comm.	12,125.00
Cemetery Comm.	5,814.00
Library	64,296.00
Senior Center	15,701.00
Veterans	7,815.00
Local Council on Aging	500.00
Sub-Total:	110,691.00

Public Health

Board of Health	2,523.00
Health Agent	14,025.00
Solid Waste Disp.	38,647.00
Hazardous Waste	1,000.00
FC Waste Dist.	5,994.00
Sub-Total:	62,189.00

Public Safety

Fire	61,090.00
Ambulance	101,783.00
Police	181,832.00
Quinn Bill Incentive	4,700.00
Animal Control	4,223.00
Animal Inspection	500.00
Emergency Mgt.	1,360.00
FC Inspection Prog.	7,500.00
Sub-Total:	362,988.00

Public WorksHighway Dept.

Salaries	125,164.00
Gen. Highways	78,900.00
Winter Roads	124,167.00
Road Machinery	21,000.00
Garage Maint.	7,560.00
Trees	5,000.00
Sub-Total:	361,791.00

Water Dept.

Salaries	3,224.00
Operations	
Sub-Total:	3,224.00

Ins. & Benefits

Prop. & Liab. Ins.	45,834.00
Health Ins. –Town/School	426,972.00
Medicare & Soc. Sec.	26,350.00
Workers Comp. Ins.	15,408.00
Life	2,134.00
Unemp. Ins.	12,500.00
Retirement	149,628.00
Police & Fire Insurance	14,000.00
OPEB Liability	25,000.00
Division of Medicaid Assis.	1,655.00

Sub-Total: **719,481.00**

Unclassified

Temp. Loan Int.	2,000.00
Reserve Fund	20,000.00
FR Council of Govt.	18,708.00
Physicals & Tests	2,000.00
Town Vehicles Fuel	26,600.00
Vaccinations	0.00
Educational Inc.(T.Clerk)	1,000.00

Sub-Total: 70,308.00

Total Town Govt.: 2,044,426.00

Schools**Elementary**

Operating	1,599,454.00
Transportation	
Fixed Assets	

Sub-Total: 1,599,454.00

Frontier

Operating	899,904.00
Exist. Cap. Costs	
Transportation	9,543.00

Sub-Total: 909,447.00

FC Technical

Operating	119,136.00
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Sub-total: 119,136.00

Smith Vocational Tuition **0.00**

Total Schools: 2,628,037.00

Total Town & School: 4,672,463.00

Long term-Debt

Frontier Bond	0.00
Town Office Building	36,000.00

Total Long-Term Debt 36,000.00

Sub-Total: 36,000.00

Short term-Debt

Dump Truck	50,625.00
Dump Truck 2	53,000.00
Fire Truck	88,000.00

Total Short-Term Debt 191,625.00

Total Operating Budget 4,903,312.00

Moderator declared article passed in the affirmative

The following eleven (11) articles are recommendations of the Capital Planning Committee:

Article 9: Upon motion made and seconded, it was

Voted to borrow the sum of **\$145,000** for the purchase of a dump truck for the Highway Department as part of the 2017 Capital Improvement Plan, and authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to issue any bonds or notes that may be necessary for that purpose, as authorized by General Laws Chapter 44, §7 (9), or any other general or special law, for a period not to exceed 3 years.

2/3rd's vote required

Moderator declared vote passed unanimously

Article 10: Motion was made and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from available funds (FREE CASH) the sum of **\$13,000** for paving the Highway Department lot to the Salt Shed.

An Amendment was made and seconded as follows:

I move that the Town vote to transfer from available funds (FREE CASH) the sum of \$13,000 for paving the Highway Department lot to the Salt Shed and for repairs to the Town Highway Garage building.

There was much discussion regarding this amendment. The Highway Superintendent reported that if this paving project is done at the same time as the police parking lot and the regular road paving, there could be as much as \$5,000 remaining in this line item. The amendment asks that this balance be used to start on repairs to the Town Highway Garage. The argument against this amendment was that the repairs to the Highway Garage should be evaluated and brought to the Capital Planning Committee separately from this article.

A vote was taken on the amendment and it failed.

A vote was taken on the original motion and it was

Voted that the town transfer from available funds (FREE CASH) the sum of **\$13,000** for paving the Highway Department lot to the Salt Shed.

Moderator declared article passed in the affirmative

Article 11: Upon motion made and seconded, it was

Voted that the town transfer from available funds (FREE CASH) the sum of **\$18,000** to purchase an emissions exhaust system for the Fire Department.

Moderator declared article passed in the affirmative

Article 12: Upon motion made and seconded, it was

Voted that the town transfer from available funds (FREE CASH), the sum of **\$10,000** to complete repairs to the Police Department building, by installing fencing, lighting, and completing the paving in the parking lot and walkway areas surrounding the building.

Moderator declared article passed in the affirmative

Article 13: Upon motion made and seconded, it was

Voted that the town transfer from available funds (FREE CASH), the sum of **\$35,000** to replace a model year 2009 Cruiser for the Police Department.

Moderator declared article passed in the affirmative

Article 14: Upon motion made and seconded, it was

Voted that the town transfer from available funds (FREE CASH), the sum of **\$15,500** for repairs to the roof and gutters, and entrance improvements at the S. White Dickinson Library.

Moderator declared article passed in the affirmative

Article 15: Upon motion made and seconded, it was

Voted that the town transfer from available funds (FREE CASH), the sum of **\$3,000** to purchase a storage shed for the Blue School Field, located at 219 Christian Lane.

Moderator declared article passed in the affirmative

Article 16: Upon motion made and seconded, it was

Voted that the town transfer from available funds (FREE CASH), the sum of **\$6,000** to purchase and install padding at the Whately Elementary School gymnasium.

Moderator declared article passed in the affirmative

Clerk's Note: It was noted that this \$6,000 will be supplemented by other funds from other sources.

Article 17: Upon motion made and seconded, it was

Voted that the town transfer from Water Department Retained Earnings (Free Cash) the sum of **\$10,000** to complete the purchase of a pump house generator for the Water Department.

Moderator declared article passed in the affirmative

Article 18: Upon motion made and seconded, it was

Voted that the town transfer from Water Department Retained Earnings (Free Cash) the sum of **\$5,000** for the replacement of the Water Department Truck.

Moderator declared article passed in the affirmative

Article 19: Upon motion made and seconded, it was

Voted that the town transfer from Water Department Retained Earnings (Free Cash) the sum of **\$15,000** for cleaning and waterproofing the Water Department Storage Tank.

Moderator declared article passed in the affirmative

The following six (6) articles are recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee:

Article 20: Upon motion made and seconded, it was

Voted that the town hear and act, pursuant to G.L. c.44B, on the report of the Community Preservation Committee for the Fiscal Year 2017 Community Preservation Budget and vote to appropriate or reserve from the **Community Preservation Fund** a sum of money in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for committee administrative expenses, community preservation projects and other necessary and proper expenses in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, including debt service for any approved Community Preservation projects, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation;

Appropriations:

From FY 2017 estimated revenues for Committee Administrative Expenses	\$ 7,500
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Reserves:

From FY 2017 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve	\$ 15,000
From FY 2017 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve	\$ 15,000
From FY 2017 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve	\$ 15,000
From FY 2017 estimated revenues for Budgeted Reserve	\$ 97,500

Moderator declared article passed in the affirmative

Article 21: Upon motion made and seconded, it was

Voted that the town, pursuant to G.L. c.44B, to appropriate and transfer from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space Reserve and the Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Reserve the sum of **\$16,000** as the Town's match for a permanent Agricultural Preservation restriction on 17.6 acres of farmland located on the west side of Long Plain Road north of the Whately Elementary School, and shown on Assessors' Map 26 as Lot 24, currently owned by Ed and John Smiarowski and Beverly and Donald Wilson, upon such terms and conditions as the Selectboard, in consultation with the Agricultural Commission, shall deem appropriate.

Moderator declared article passed in the affirmative

Article 22: Upon motion made and seconded, it was

Voted that the town, pursuant to G.L. c.44B, to appropriate and transfer from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Resources Reserve and the Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Reserve the sum of **\$30,000** for the preservation and repairs of compromised and deteriorating grave stones in Town cemeteries identified in the 2013 Master Plan provided by Gravestone Services of New England; work to be done under the direction of the Cemetery Commissioners.

Moderator declared article passed in the affirmative

Article 23: Upon motion made and seconded, it was

Voted that the town, pursuant to G.L. c.44B, to appropriate and transfer from the Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Reserve the sum of **\$84,000** to fund the preparation of bid-ready construction documents, through a formal request for proposals process, for the rehabilitation of the Town Hall building on Chestnut Plain Road, to serve as a community center for social, recreational and cultural use.

Clerk's Note: Alan McCardle, chair of the Historical Commission, gave a power point presentation. There was much discussion regarding this article. A motion was attempted to postpone action but the original motion was already made and seconded so the Moderator declared the motion to be out of order. Opposition felt that it is not known on whether the townspeople want to continue the rehab on this building or how much of a financial burden people are willing to accept. Opposition felt that these things should be decided before money is spent on these documents. Proponents felt that in order to give voters the accurate information the bid ready documents need to be created so final costs can be determined. Proponents also noted that grants can't be applied for without the bid ready documents. There was also some debate on the tax implications but this article is being funded through CPA. Funding availability for the actual project won't be known until the documents are completed and the project is bid.

A vote of voting placards was taken and there were 69 affirmative votes and 34 nay votes.

The Moderator declared article passed in the affirmative

Article 24: Upon motion made and seconded, it was

Voted that the town, pursuant to G.L. c.44B, close the following CPA accounts, and return the funds to the **following reserves**:

Account #380-182-5821	Archive Vital Records	\$695	Historic Resources Reserve
Account #380-182-5824	Historic Street Signs	\$600	Historic Resources Reserve
Account #380-182-5825	Cemetery Maps	\$250.62	Historic Resources Reserve
Account #380-182-5827	Shelving and Dehumidifier	\$2,500	Historic Resources Reserve
Account #380-182-5822	Town Hall Planning	\$1,988.34	Budgeted Reserve
Account #380-182-5810	Repair Frontier Tennis Courts	\$155	Budgeted Reserve

The Moderator declared article passed in the affirmative

Article 25: Upon motion made and seconded, it was

Voted that the town transfer from available funds (FREE CASH), the sum of **\$115,000** for office renovations at the Whately Town Office Building.

The Moderator declared article passed in the affirmative

Article 26: Upon motion made and seconded, it was

Voted to authorize the Selectboard to petition the General Court for special legislation to allow Peter Hannum, a Town of Whately call firefighter, notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the contrary, to serve in such position until the age of 70, or until the date of his retirement or non-reappointment, whichever occurs first; provided, however that no deductions from the regular compensation of Peter Hannum shall be made under chapter 32 of the General

Laws subsequent to his reaching the age of 65 in connection with his service to the Town for retirement or pension purposes; and further provided, that the General Court may make clerical and editorial changes of form only to the bill unless the Selectboard approves amendments to the bill prior to enactment by the General Court, and to authorize the Selectboard to approve such amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition.

The Moderator declared article passed in the affirmative

Article 27: Article was withdrawn by the Board of Selectmen.

This article pertained to authorizing the Selectboard to act in the best interests of the Town, to negotiate in order to make changes to the South County Emergency Medical Services (SCEMS) Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA).

Article 28: Upon motion made and seconded, it was

Voted to authorize the Board of Assessors to transfer from Free Cash, the sum of **\$200,000** to reduce the tax levy for FY17.

Upon motion made and seconded, it was

Voted to adjourn without date at 8:30 p.m.

A true record,

ATTEST:

Lynn M. Sibley, MMC, CMMC
Town Clerk of Whately