

TOWN OF BARRE, MASSACHUSETTS
Annual Town Meeting Warrant
June 25, 2024

ARTICLE 6: **FY 2025 SEWER ENTERPRISE BUDGET**
Sponsor: DPW Commission
[Majority Vote Required]

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer a sum of money for the operations and maintenance of the municipal sewer system for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 7: **FY 2025 OMNIBUS BUDGET**
Sponsor: Select Board
[Majority Vote Required]

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to pay Town charges and expenses for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and vote to fix salary and compensation of all elected officials of the Town in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 108, effective July 1, 2024 and make all appropriations for the same; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 8: **FY 2025 OMNIBUS BUDGET- SCHOOLS**
Sponsor: Select Board
[Majority Vote Required]

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to pay school charges and expenses for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and make all appropriations for the same; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 9: **PEG ACCESS AND CABLE RELATED FUND**
Sponsor: Select Board
[Majority Vote Required]

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$110,000.00 from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund to operate the Public, Educational, and Governmental (PEG) Access and Cable Related Fund established pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53F ¾ for fiscal year 2025 and further to appropriate a portion of said funds to complete the Matrix broadband project and to install equipment on third floor of the Henry Woods Building to record public meetings, and anything incidental or related thereto; or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 10: **REVOLVING FUNDS**
Sponsor: Select Board
[Majority Vote Required]

To see if the Town will vote to establish spending limits for the Town’s revolving accounts established pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ and the Town’s Bylaws Chapter 48, Section 1, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 as shown in the table below; or take any other action relative thereto.

<u>Revolving Fund</u>	<u>Approval to spend fund</u>	<u>Revenue Source</u>	<u>Use of Fund</u>	<u>FY25 Spending Limit</u>
Library	Library Director	Library Printing and photocopying fees and charges	To be used on an operation and/or maintenance of the library copper and printers	\$2,000

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Board of Health	Board of Health Members	Percolation test fees and disposal work construction permits, food permits, pool permits	To be used to pay one of its members or designated agents for inspections associated with said tests and permits	\$15,000
Electrical Inspector	Building Inspector	Electrical Inspector charges and fees	To be used on payment of all charges and fees related to electrical expenses and electrical inspector fees	\$50,000
Plumbing Inspector	Building Inspector	Plumbing Inspector charges and fees	To be used on payment of all charges and fees related to plumbing expenses and plumbing inspector fees	\$7,000
Gas Inspector	Building Inspector	Gas Inspector charges and fees	To be used on payment of all charges and fees related to gas expenses and gas inspector fees	\$4,000
Police Department	Police Chief	Civilian Firearms Safety Class fees	To be used on administrative costs (Instructor pay) and expense related costs	\$10,000
Police Department	Police Chief	Barre Falls Dam Contractual Revenue	To be used for an Administrative Cruiser Replacement	\$70,000
Police Department	Police Chief	Detail administrative fees and cruiser	To be used on payment of administrative costs cruiser repair/replacement costs	\$16,000
Fire Department	Fire Chief	Burning Permit Fees	To be used on the purchase of replacement brush fire/forest fire equipment	\$3,000
Council on Aging	Council on Aging	Program Fees and Event Fees	To be used for programs and events	\$2,000

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ARTICLE 11: **CHAPTER 90 GRANT**
Sponsor: Select Board
[Majority Vote Required]

To see if the Town will vote to accept any and all state highway assistance funds authorized by the state legislature and approved by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation- Highway Division under the so-called Chapter 90 Highway Assistance Program to be expended for the maintenance, repair and construction of Town roads in anticipation of reimbursement under the direction of the Select Board for work on roads located on the State Aid Primary System as approved by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation-Highway Division, and further to authorize the Treasurer/Collector, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow money from time to time during Fiscal Year 2025 up to the reimbursable amount, for the period from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, in anticipation of reimbursement of said highway assistance in conformity with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 6A, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 12: **LOCAL OPTION MEALS TAX**
Sponsor: Select Board
[Majority Vote Required]

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 64L, Section 2 so as to impose a local sales tax upon the sale of restaurant meals originating within the town by a vendor at a rate of 0.75 per cent of the gross receipts of the vendor from the sale of restaurant meals, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 13: **PURCHASE NEW CRUISER FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT**
Sponsor: Select Board
[Majority Vote Required]

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$79,000.00 from the capital stabilization fund a sum of money for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a new cruiser for the Police Department; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 14: **Ruggles Lane School Improvement Project**
Sponsor: Select Board
[Majority Vote Required]

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the unused portion of the appropriation made pursuant to Article 15 from the November 26, 2012 Special Town Meeting for the Ruggles Lane School Improvement Project to the principal portion of the debt exclusion payment for that project due in FY 2025; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 15: **Overlay and Surplus Use**
Sponsor: Select Board
[Majority Vote Required]

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Board of Assessor's Overlay Surplus Account a sum of money to pay for the deficits in the following grant accounts, or take any other action relative thereto:

- 1- CARES Act Grant
- 2- Sidewalk Improvement Grant
- 3- Economic Development Grant
- 4- Open Space Recreation Grant

ARTICLE 16: **DPW/Water/Sewer Union Contract**
Sponsor: Select Board
[Majority Vote Required]

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds Retained Earnings accounts a sum of money for the purpose of funding and implementing the first-year cost items of the collective bargaining agreement between the Town and Teamsters Union Local 170; or take any other action relative thereto.

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ARTICLE 17: COMPENSATION FOR PART-TIME ASSESSOR

Sponsor: Board of Assessors
[Majority Vote Required]

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Assessors to appoint one of its members to a paid part-time position under their supervision as allowed by G.L. Chapter 268A, Section 21A to fix the compensation of such appointee and to raise and to appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to fund such position; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 18: A RESOLUTION TO FILE AND ACCEPT GRANTS WITH AND FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR THE PARKLAND ACQUISITIONS AND RENOVATIONS FOR COMMUNITIES PROGRAM FOR IMPROVEMENT TO HIGH PLAINS PARK

Sponsor: Select Board
[Majority Vote Required]

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution relative to renovations and improvements to High Plains Park, with said improvements to be funded entirely by grant funds; or take any other action relative thereto.

A RESOLUTION TO FILE AND ACCEPT GRANTS WITH AND FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR THE PARKLAND ACQUISITIONS AND RENOVATIONS FOR COMMUNITIES PROGRAM FOR IMPROVEMENT TO HIGH PLAINS PARK

Whereas: HIGH PLAINS PARK is by and far a community-wide asset and improvements to this facility are a Town priority as evidenced in the most recent Open Space and Recreation Plan;

and

Whereas: HIGH PLAINS PARK upgrades, guided by the Open Space and Recreation Plan, will greatly enhance this facility with improved education and engagement opportunities;

and

Whereas: The main focus of this project is to design and construct new playground facilities for Barre residents;

and

Whereas: The project was viewed to be implemented over time, by priority as fiscal resources were available, with the intention of securing grant funding, when and if available, to assist in this effort;

and

Whereas: The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) is offering reimbursable grants to cities and towns to support the preservation, restoration, and renovation of parks through the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities grant program (301 CMR 5.00);

and

Whereas: THE HIGH PLAINS PARK project will cost a total of \$200,000 and the Town has allocated \$200,000 for this project, to be funded with American Rescue Plan Act funds authorized by the Select Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

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1. That the Town Administrator be and is hereby authorized to file and accept grants from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs or any other source for the purpose of designing, constructing and equipping improvements to High Plains Park and anything incidental or related thereto; and
2. That the Town Administrator be and is hereby authorized to take such other actions as are necessary to carry out the terms, purposes, and conditions of this grant to be administered by the Conservation Commission;
3. That HIGH PLAINS PARK be dedicated to park and recreation purposes under M.G.L. Chapter 45, Section 3; and
4. That this resolution shall take effect upon passage.

ARTICLE 19: **Assessors Recertification of properties**
 Sponsor: Assessors
 [Majority Vote Required]

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to pay for costs associated with the Assessors Recertification of properties, Special Appraisal Expenses, Cyclical Re-Inspection and Annual Interim Adjustments and anything incidental or related thereto; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 20: **Barre Reservoir Dam**
 Sponsor: Select Board
 [Majority Vote Required]

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds a sum of money to conduct preliminary assessment of the property interests that would have to be acquired in order to complete the Barre Reservoir Dam rehabilitation or replacement project, including costs for attorneys and appraisal fees, and anything incidental or related thereto; or anything incidental or related thereto.

ARTICLE 21: **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS SPECIAL ACT**
 Sponsor: Select Board
 [Majority Vote Required]

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for special legislation to reorganize the department of public works so as to abolish the Public Works Commission and to make the Superintendent of Public Works a position appointed by the Town Administrator, by repealing Chapter 56 of the Acts of 1988 and replacing it with a new Department of Public Works Act, as shown below; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court, and authorizing the Select Board to approve any amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition; or take any other action relative thereto.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS IN THE TOWN OF BARRE

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 56 of the Acts of 1988 is hereby repealed and the public works commission established by said act is hereby abolished.

SECTION 2. There is hereby established in the Town of Barre a department of public works, hereinafter called the department. Said department shall be composed of the water commissioners, sewer commissioners and road commissioners, or select board if a road commission is not

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established. Said commissions shall continue to be elected in accordance with the General Laws and the by-laws of said town and they shall continue to have all the powers and responsibilities vested by the general or special laws or town by-law, except with respect to the appointment of a superintendent and subordinate employees. The department shall have all the powers and duties previously vested in or exercised by any of the following departments: the highway department, water department, sewer department, and the parks and recreation department.

SECTION 3. The department shall be supervised by a superintendent appointed by the town administrator, in consultation with the select board, subject to the by-laws of the town that provide for the appointment of officers by the town administrator. The town administrator in consultation with select board may establish an employment contract with the superintendent for salary, fringe benefits and other conditions of employment, including, but not limited to, severance pay, reimbursement for expenses incurred in the performance of the duties of office, liability insurance and conditions of discipline, termination, dismissal, reappointment, performance standards and leave. The superintendent shall hold no other elective or appointive office in the town without approval from the select board and shall not be engaged in any other business that would constitute a conflict of interest as defined by Massachusetts General Laws. The superintendent shall report to the town administrator as to the doings of the department at such times as the town administrator may require.

SECTION 4. The superintendent shall exercise and perform, under the direction and supervision of the town administrator, all of the powers, rights and duties to be exercised by the department under this act, and the superintendent shall appoint such subordinate employees as may be necessary to operate the department, subject to any policies and procedures established by town administrator. The compensation of any such subordinate employees shall be established pursuant to the personnel policies and practices, rules and regulations of the town and any applicable collective bargaining agreements.

SECTION 5. No contracts or liabilities in force upon the effective date of this act shall be affected by the repeal of chapter 56 of the acts of 1988, and the department of public works and the superintendent of public works created in this act shall in all respects be the lawful successor of the offices and departments that were abolished by the repeal of said chapter 56. All records, property and equipment of any office, department or part thereof assigned under said chapter 56 shall, by operation of law, be assigned to the department of public works and the superintendent of public works.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon passage.

ARTICLE 22: **Road Commission Bylaw**
 Sponsor: Select Board
 [Majority Vote Required]

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Barre by adding a new Article V to Chapter 18, Boards, Committees and Commissions, relative to the establishment of a road commission as shown below, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article V Road Commission

SECTION 18-19 Establishment

There is hereby established within the department of public works a road commission. The road commission shall be comprised of three elected members. At the first annual election occurring no less than 64 days after the effective date of this bylaw, members of the road commission shall be elected for initial terms of one year, two years and three years, with successors being elected for three years such that the members of the commission are elected for staggered three-year terms.

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SECTION 18-20 Powers and Duties

The road commission shall have all the powers and duties that are vested by the General Laws, town bylaws or special acts relating to road commissions and it shall be responsible for such other matters as determined by the town administrator, in consultation with the select board; provided, that said other matters may include, but shall not be limited to, approving roadway projects, recommending uses of road funds including chapter 90 for approval by the select board, recommending paving bid contracts for approval by the town administrator, directing pursuits of grant funding for transportation projects, establishing transportation initiatives, establishing transportation policies including parking regulations and traffic calming measures, approving roadway layouts, designs, and materials prior to construction including the repainting of pavement markings.

You are directed to serve this Warrant by posting an attested copy thereof on the bulletin boards at Ruggles Lane School, 105 Ruggles Lane; Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange Street; Town Clerk's Office, 40 West St. (basement), Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street – 1st floor; Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant Street; 50 Main Street; and Barre Senior Center 557 South Barre Road.

Hereof, fail not, and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon, to the Barre Town Clerk at the time and place of said meeting as aforesaid. Given under our hands this 12th day of June 2024 A.D.

S/Maureen Marshall, Dr. Maureen Marshall, Chair

S/John Dixon, John Dixon, Vice Chairman
BARRE SELECT BOARD

CONSTABLE'S RETURN OF SERVICE

Worcester SS:

Pursuant to the within Warrant, On June 12th, 2024, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Barre by posting up attested copies of the same on the bulletin boards at:

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Ruggles Lane School, 105 Ruggles Lane at:	6:30 p.m.
Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange Street at:	6:45 p.m.
Town Clerk's Office, 40 West Street (basement) at:	6:24 p.m.
Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street 1st floor at:	6:22 p.m.
Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant Street at:	6:25 p.m.
50 Main Street at:	6:40 p.m.
Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road at:	6:35 p.m.

June 12, 2024
Date Signed

S/Dennis G. Fleming
Dennis G. Fleming, Constable of Barre

Returned to the Barre Town Clerk at 6:50 p.m. on the 12th day of June, 2024 A.D.

s/ Ellen M. Glidden

Ellen M. Glidden, CMC, CMMC
Barre Town Clerk

S/Dennis G. Fleming

Dennis G. Fleming, Constable of Barre