



TOWN OF REHOBOTH TOWN WARRANT

**Special Town Meeting
Tuesday, October 29, 2019
7:00 PM**

**Dighton Rehoboth Regional High School
High School Auditorium
2700 Regional Road
North Dighton, MA 02764**

WARRANT FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING - October 29, 2019

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BOARD of SELECTMEN LETTER

Dear Fellow Citizens,

The Board of Selectmen is asking the voters to support all Articles as they appear in this Warrant, and want to specifically highlight the reasons we are asking for your support of Article 1 and Article 2 in this letter.

On August 5th the Board of Selectmen voted to support bringing a compromise funding agreement to the voters at the October 29 Special Town Meeting. The compromise funding agreement was reached after discussions involving members of the Board of Selectmen, School Committee, Finance Committee and the Town Moderator. Additionally, the Massachusetts Commissioner of Education is supportive of the compromise agreement.

The Board of Selectmen voted to support the compromise funding agreement for several reason; (1) the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) interpreted the vote taken at the July 16 STM as a ‘rejection of the school assessment’ and advised the School Committee to convene a joint meeting (aka ‘tent meeting’) of Rehoboth and Dighton to vote on setting the school district budget. The Board objects to the notion of a tent meeting. We do not believe taxpayers in one municipality have the right to dictate the taxes paid by the residents of another municipality; (2) new funding information became available to both the Town and the School District as a result of the Commonwealth finalizing the FY20 budget in late July; (3) the Selectmen are keenly aware of the impact another override would have to the residents and wanted to exhaust all options before asking the taxpayers to absorb another increase; (4) we wanted to bring stability to the student experience by resolving this year’s funding issues and focus our attention and resources on the long term solution of a revised Regional Agreement between Rehoboth and Dighton.

The compromise funding agreement provides an additional \$330,405 to the District, rather than the \$558,797 Proposition 2 ½ Override contingent appropriation voted in July. **The additional appropriation of \$330,405 will not result in an additional tax increase.** It can be funded through a combination of increased state aid and reduced charges (\$28,129), increased revenue projections (\$20,000), reduced appropriations to Town Departments (\$214,000), and a limited use of free cash (\$68,276).

The Board is confident none of the reduced FY 20 Town Department appropriations will adversely impact town services. We state this because (1) The Board was proactive at the end of last fiscal year and approved facility related projects which enabled the Town to encumber unspent funds from FY19 to fund some of the needed projects. We also received a grant from the Commonwealth which will offset a portion of the project budgeted in FY20. (2) Rather than increasing the Snow Removal & Sanding budget as planned, we will continue to fund these activities as we have in the past. (3) The restructuring of the police Department undertaken in FY19 produced very favorable results; one of which was to reduce overtime expense. (4) Town employee retirements will not occur at the level anticipated during the budgeting process which results in a surplus in the line. (5) The actual tuition cost for Bristol County Agricultural students came in below the budgeted amount. (6) The reduction in Selectmen’s Office expense is for a project we were able to fund at the end of FY19. (7) The actual cost of the Town’s insurance came in below the budgeted amount.

By no means is the compromise funding agreement perfect. Many feel the Board of Selectmen ‘caved’ to the School Committee’s demands; while others believe the School Committee ‘sold out’ and should not have

worked towards any compromise. However, at the end of the day both the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee voted unanimously to support the compromise agreement. We did so because we believe it is in the best interests of all residents. The compromise holds taxes steady while maintaining a stable environment for the students. The compromise also saved the residents from enduring additional meetings and ballot votes, and saved the Town the considerable expense associated with these activities.

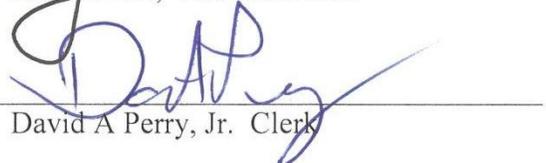
As a Board, we stand united and committed in turning our attention to resolving the bigger issues facing the yearly debate over school funding – accountability for the funds appropriated to the School District and a new Regional School Agreement, which is needed to bring a fair and equitable allocation of the costs required to properly educate our children. We have already taken steps to move both of these initiatives forward and we will continue to work on behalf of all our residents to bring about the accountability and transparency required to ensure a fiscally sound and successful School District.

There will be a Public Information Session on Wednesday, October 16 at the Council of Aging Building, 55 Bay State Road beginning at 7:00PM. At this time we will review and provide information on all the Articles to be voted at Town Meeting. The information session will be recorded and available for on-demand viewing by visiting RehobothTV.org.

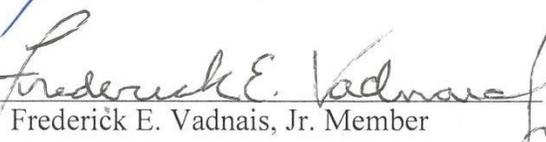
We respectfully request you attend the Special Town Meeting on October 29 and support the Articles as printed in the Warrant.


Gerald V. Schwall, Chairman


James Muri, Vice Chairman


David A. Perry, Jr. Clerk


Michael R. Costello, Member


Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr. Member

FINANCE COMMITTEE LETTER

Greetings Citizens of Rehoboth,

On October 3rd, the Rehoboth Finance Committee met to consider our recommendations on the articles contained in the warrant before you. There was much spirited debate, and for some articles our votes were less than unanimous for approval or disapproval. I would encourage you to visit RehobothTV.org or public access Channel 9 where you can view a recording of our meeting in its entirety.

For Article 1, we recommend **approval** of the reductions proposed by the Board of Selectmen. We considered each reduction individually, and several members of the committee had concerns with a few of the reductions, especially the one dealing with reductions to facilities maintenance given the condition of our town buildings. However, as a collective group, when we voted on each reduction, a majority of Finance Committee members recommended approval.

On Article 2, the Finance Committee recommends **disapproval** by a 4 to 1 vote. The reasons given by each Finance Committee member for their vote differ. It would be difficult to properly editorialize the reasons expressed by those who voted to recommend disapproval. Should the attendees of Town Meeting opt to vote against our recommendation and approve this article, we recommend a combination of Raise and Appropriate and Free Cash as this article's funding sources.

The remaining financial articles in the warrant we unanimously recommend **approval**, with a funding source of Free Cash for those requiring an appropriation. Several articles of special note include articles 3, 4 and 5. The Community Preservation Committee, not the Finance Committee, provides a recommendation on Article 7.

Article 3 will allow the Selectmen to temporarily hire much needed assistance in the Selectmen's office due to the prolonged absence of our Town Administrator. Additionally, our Forestry department will have the ability to hire some additional temporary help to clear brush and dead trees along the roadways, much needed maintenance which has slipped these past few years due to our ongoing budget constraints.

Article 4 places additional funds into our Capital Stabilization account. We have several upcoming projects which will require substantial funding. In addition to a new municipal complex, in another year or two the Town will need to replace one of our fire engines, which is currently at end-of-life and is starting to become a maintenance money-pit. By placing funds into our Capital Stabilization account, we can save funds now for these future projects and not ask residents to fund those projects with tax increases.

Finally, Article 5 allows the Town to continue to fund its OPEB account. Attendees at Town Meeting in May voted to establish this account. The Town currently has a \$9.6m liability which the State wants fully funded by 2028. Currently we only have \$50k towards this liability and this article will fund another \$50k into the account if you accept our recommendation.

We go into this Special Town Meeting with \$766,251 in Free Cash, certified by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue in September. Should you accept our recommendations, we will expend \$329,000, leaving \$437,000 available for appropriation at the May town meeting.

As always, should you have questions regarding our recommendations or questions regarding town finances in general, you are always welcome to contact me personally either via email or via my cell phone. I will be happy to address your questions to the best of my ability.

For the Finance Committee,
Michael P. Deignan, Chairman
michael.p.deignan@gmail.com
cell: 401-556-5062

Colleen Simpson, Vice Chair
George Solas, Clerk
Sue McBride
Michael Fleming

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Town of Rehoboth

Bristol, ss

To any of the Constables of the Town of Rehoboth

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town aforesaid who are qualified to vote in Elections and Town Affairs, therein, to meet in the Dighton Rehoboth Regional High School, on Tuesday, October 29, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. to act on the following **Special Town Meeting** articles:

ARTICLE 1: ADJUSTMENTS TO FISCAL YEAR 2020 REHOBOTH TOWN BUDGET
SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

To see if the Town will vote to amend the following appropriations contained within the FY2020 Town Budget

DECREASE APPROPRIATION BY	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT NUMBER
\$85,000	Facility Maintenance	187
\$50,000	Highway - Snow Removal & Sanding	423
\$30,000	Police - Wages	205
\$25,000	Comp Buyout	105
\$17,000	Bristol County Agricultural Tuition	393
\$5,000	Selectmen Office - Expenses	122
\$2,000	Town Insurance	945

___Approved ___Disapproved

Finance Committee Recommends: Approval
Board of Selectmen Recommends: Approval

Comments: Represents a total of \$214,000 in reductions to the Town budget. A more thorough explanation of these reductions is included in the Selectmen’s letter at the beginning of the Warrant.

ARTICLE 2: FISCAL YEAR 2020 DIGHTON REHOBOTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BUDGET AND ASSESSMENT

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the appropriation of \$18,970,859.00 under Article 1 of the July 16, 2019 Special Town Meeting and raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, no more than the sum of \$19,301,264 as recommended by the Board of Selectmen, to defray the costs and expenses of the Dighton Rehoboth Regional School District for fiscal year 2020.

___Approved ___Disapproved

Finance Committee Recommends: Disapproval
Board of Selectmen Recommends: Approval
Source of Funds: Raise & Appropriate
Free Cash

Comments: Represents a difference of \$330,405 from the May ATM. A more thorough explanation is included in the Selectmen’s letter at the beginning of the Warrant.

ARTICLE 3: FISCAL YEAR 2020 AMENDED BUDGET

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town by amending the 2020 fiscal year’s budget as follows, and make all appropriations therefore, or take any other action relative thereto.

AMOUNT	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	INCREASE ACCOUNT
\$14,000	Selectmen Office – Wages (1)	122
\$15,000	Forestry Expenses (2)	294

Approve Disapprove

Finance Committee Recommends: Approval

Source of Funds: Free Cash

Comments: (1) Additional funding to be used to hire a temporary part time person to support the administrative needs of the Selectmen’s Office in the absence of the Town Administrator. (2) Additional funding to be used for the removal of dead trees and stumps along roadways and other related projects.

ARTICLE 4: FUND CAPITAL STABILIZATION ACCOUNT

SUBMITTED BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$250,000 into the Capital Stabilization Account, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Approved Disapproved

Board of Selectmen Recommends: Approval

Finance Committee Recommends: Approval

Source of Funds: Free Cash

Comments: Approval of this article would allocate funds into the Capital Stabilization Account for the purposes of funding the Town’s Capital Improvement Plan.

ARTICLE 5: FUND OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB)

SUBMITTED BY: TREASURER

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$50,000 to fund the OPEB Trust Fund, or take any other action thereto.

Approve Disapprove

Board of Selectmen Recommends: Approval

Finance Committee Recommends: Approval

Source of Funds: Free Cash

Comments: This amount represents the second deposit towards fully funding the Town’s liability for retiree benefits, as mandated by the Commonwealth.

ARTICLE 6: AUTHORIZE INVESTMENT OF OPEB FUND UNDER PRUDENT INVESTOR

RULE

SUBMITTED BY: TOWN TREASURER

To see if the Town will authorize the Custodian-Trustee/OPEB fund Board of Trustees of the OPEB Fund established under G.L. c. 32B, Section 20 to invest monies in the OPEB Fund under the prudent investor rule established in G.L. c. 203C, or take any other action relative thereto.

_____ **Approved** _____ **Disapproved**

Board of Selectmen Recommends: Approval
Finance Committee Recommends: Approval

Comments: This Article will authorize the Rehoboth Town Treasurer to make investment decisions on behalf of the Town related to the funds invested in the OPEB Trust Fund.

ARTICLE 7: REPAIRS TO HORNBINE SCHOOL

SUBMITTED BY: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

To see if the Town will vote to approve the sum of \$3,500 to fund costs related to an electrical upgrade and new heating system at the Hornbine School from the Historic Preservation Fund of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) or to take any other action relative thereto.

_____ **Approved** _____ **Disapproved**

CPC Recommends: Approval

Comments: The repairs have been ordered by the Town Building Inspector. The Community Preservation Council acknowledges the Hornbine School is a valuable Town resource and has agreed to fund the project to preserve and enhance the safety and comfort of those who visit.

ARTICLE 8: APPROPRIATE FUNDS FROM NETWORK TRANSPORTATION RESERVE

RECEIPT (NTRR) FUND

SUBMITTED BY: TOWN ACCOUNTANT

To see if the Town will appropriate and transfer \$368.60 from the Network Transportation Services Reserve Receipt Fund to the Highway Road Program for the purpose of road improvements, or take any other action relative thereto.

_____ **Approved** _____ **Disapproved**

Board of Selectmen Recommends: Approval
Finance Committee Recommends: Approval
Source of Funds: NTRR Fund

Comments: Per-ride assessment distribution (from Uber and other similar ride services) received annually from the Commonwealth must be deposited into the Reserve Fund and expenditures of the funds must be used to address the impact of transportation network services on municipal roads, bridges and other transportation infrastructure. All appropriations from the Reserve Account must be approved by Town Meeting

ARTICLE 9: GENERAL BYLAWS AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER A – AUTHORIZED REVOLVING ACCOUNTS

SUBMITTED BY: HISTORICAL COMMISSION

To see if the Town will vote to amend CHAPTER A TOWN MEETINGS, OFFICERS, COMMITTEES AND ELECTIONS - ARTICLE III – TOWN OFFICIALS - ELECTED, Section 2. Powers and Duties of Elected Officials, D. Duties of the Town Treasurer of the General By-laws of the Town by adding a new revolving fund to section “E. Authorized Revolving Funds” for use by the Historical Commission under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, § 53E½ as follows:

FUND	REVENUE SOURCE	AUTHORITY TO SPEND FUNDS	USE OF FUNDS	FISCAL YEARS
Historical Commission	Registration Fees, Ticket Sales, Donations, Program Receipts, Town Appropriations	Historical Commission	To identify and protect important historical assets within the Town, to educate the public, and to encourage interest in local history.	Fiscal Year 2020 and subsequent years

___Approved ___Disapproved

Board of Selectmen Recommends: Approval
Finance Committee Recommends: Approval

Comments: The Historical Commission is requesting to establish a revolving account to accept and expend revenue in accordance with the Commission’s purpose of identifying and protecting historical assets.

ARTICLE 10: AUTHORIZE HISTORICAL COMMISSION EXPENDITURE FOR REVOLVING ACCOUNT

SUBMITTED BY: HISTORICAL COMMISSION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the total expenditures for the Historical Commission revolving fund pursuant to G.L. Chapter 44 Section 53E ½ for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 to be expended in accordance with section D9 of the Revolving Funds bylaw as outlined in Article 7 , or take any other action relative thereto.

FUND	Approved Total Expenditures
Historical Commission	\$10,000

___Approve ___Disapprove

Board of Selectmen Recommends: Approval
Finance Committee Recommends: Approval

Comments: Approval of this article will establish the revolving fund dollar amount the Historical Commission is allowed to expend from this account in any given fiscal year.

ARTICLE 11: BOARD OF HEALTH TRANSFER STATION – OFFSET RECEIPTS

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF HEALTH

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 15 from the 2019 Annual Town Meeting to reauthorize an “offset receipts” account for the Solid Waste Handling Facility and Recycling Area and its operation pursuant to MGL Chapter 44 Section 53E. Fees collected for the use of the Solid Waste Handling Facility and Recycling Area will be deposited in this fund. The account shall be for the expenses and improvements incurred for the operation, maintenance, monitoring and or compliance requirements of the Solid Waste Handling Facility and Recycling Area, and the Fiscal Year 2019 expenditures shall be increased from the

estimated amount of \$131,978.00 to a new amount of \$138,000.00. All expenditures are to be authorized by the Board of Health, or take any other action relative thereto.

 Approved **Disapproved**

Board of Selectmen Recommends: Approval
Finance Committee Recommends: Approval

Comments:

The operation of the Transfer Station is estimated to cost no more than \$138,000 and will be funded by “pay-as-you-throw” fees.

ARTICLE 12: TRANSACT OTHER BUSINESS AS MAY LEGALLY COME BEFORE SAID MEETING

And you are hereby directed to serve this Warrant by posting up attested copies thereof in the Office of the Town Clerk and in not less than three other public places in each of the three precincts of the Town fourteen (14) days at least before the day fixed for the meeting.

Hereof and fail not make due return of this Warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk at the time and place of holding said meeting.

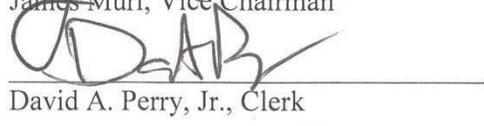
Given under our hands this 7th day of October in the year to thousand nineteen.



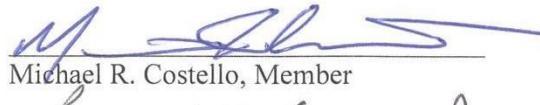
Gerald V. Schwall, Chairman



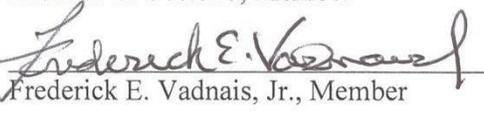
James Muri, Vice Chairman



David A. Perry, Jr., Clerk



Michael R. Costello, Member



Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Member

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

**FY20 DRRSD Assessment Statutory
Above calculates by agreement
HS,K-8 Dighton and Rehoboth**

**FY20 DRRSD Assessment
9.3.19 Approved**

[Redacted]

	TOTAL DISTRICT	DIGHTON	REHOBOTH
OPERATING BUDGETS:			
HIGH SCHOOL less transportation	20,797,955		
DIGHTON K-8 less transportation	9,373,176		
REHOBOTH K-8 less transportation	11,131,685		
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGETS	41,302,816		
Minimum Local Contribution	19,831,231	6,453,587	13,377,644
Operating less Minimum Local	21,471,585		
Chapter 70	12,956,936		
Transportation Reimbursement	1,107,480		
Charter School Reim	2,814		
Medicaid Reimbursement	200,000		
Energy SREC/TREC Rev	424,422		
E&D	500,000		
Total Revenues	15,191,652		
Above Local Minimum Contribution	6,279,933	1,425,155	1,692,530
K-8 - Percentage of total Budget		22.6938%	26.9514%
High School - Percentage of total Budget	50.3548%		
High School Operation Budget	3,162,248	1,201,814	1,960,434
High School Enrollment	792	301	491
High School - Percentage enrollment	100.0000%	38.0051%	61.9949%
Transportation			
Transportation Actual Cost	2,585,561	1,060,429	1,525,132
Total Assessment	4.23.19	28,696,725	10,140,985
			18,555,740
Capital	1,207,846	401,795	806,051
Total Assessment	29,904,571	10,542,780	19,361,791

45,096,223.00

Town of Rehoboth
Rehoboth, Massachusetts 02769

Important
Official Notice of:
October 29, 2019 Special Town Meeting

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. Postage Paid
Attleboro, MA
Permit No. PI210

BOX HOLDER
Rehoboth, Massachusetts 02769

*Please bring this Warrant with you to the
Special Town Meeting*

*Dighton Rehoboth Regional High School
2700 Regional Road
North Dighton, MA*

Tuesday, October 29, 2019