



TOWN OF REHOBOTH TOWN WARRANT

Annual Town Meeting
&
Annual Meeting of the
Rehoboth Water District

Tuesday, December 1, 2020
7:00 PM

Ramada Inn - Ballroom
(Formerly the Johnson and Wales Inn)
213 Taunton Avenue (Route 44)
Seekonk, MA 02771

Per the Board of Health in Seekonk, mask coverings are mandatory at the Ramada Inn. All attendees will be seated six feet apart during the meeting. These procedures are also mandated by Governor Baker. Thank you for your cooperation!

WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – December 1, 2020

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**Board of Selectmen
148 Peck Street
Rehoboth, MA 02769**

Dear Fellow Citizens,

As a result of Governor Baker's Emergency Order, we have chosen to revise the manner in which we will conduct our Town Meeting. This year we have limited the Town Warrant to financial articles that must be addressed to set a tax rate. The moderator has made changes in how you will vote via a new Consent Agenda procedure. It is imperative that the Town conduct its business as quickly as possible, and limit the contact of voters within the assembly.

The Board of Selectmen want to thank the signatories of the K-8 withdrawal petitioned article, who unanimously agreed to defer action on this matter until the first business at the first Town Meeting after the Emergency Order is lifted.

For our senior citizens, the Board of Selectmen drafted an article to encumber the Council on Aging building insurance proceeds to make certain it will be available to rebuild a new center.

Please be safe, together we can and will get this done.

Respectfully submitted,

REHOBOTH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

November 5, 2020

Greetings Citizens of Rehoboth.

The Year of the Rat has been troubling for all of us, and this extends into the financial picture for the town. The uncertainty of future events related to the pandemic – such as further stay-at-home lockdowns, forced business closures and the resulting increasing unemployment all could have a substantial impact on the town's revenue collections over the coming year.

For the past 5 months the town has operated on what is commonly referred to as a "1/12th budget". However, the State recently mandated we hold a Town Meeting to adopt a budget so we can set our tax rate for the property tax bills slated for mailing in January. The Finance Committee has been monitoring the town's financial metrics (such as MVE commitments) and met several times between March and now to discuss revenue projections using the revenue and expense data provided to us by the Town Accountant, as well as other sources such as the Division of Local Services.

At the present time the economic turmoil from government's response to the pandemic has not thus far had a significant negative impact on the town's revenue. Due of the uncertainty of future events, though, we are recommending level-funding the revenue sources under our purview at last year's estimates. This includes our local receipts, motor vehicle excise collections, and meals tax collections. All of these categories of revenue are volatile and, depending on what happens over the next few months, could be negatively affected.

On the positive side, since we are having our Town Meeting late this year, we already have a certified new growth figure (whereas in May we have to work off an estimate) as well as an updated FY21 levy limit worksheet provided by the Division of Local Services. The State also made a commitment to level-fund our State Aid at FY20's numbers, but this "promise" is predicated on certain events which as of yet have not come to fruition. However, their figure is the best estimate we have at this time.

Coupled together, we are able to provide you with a balanced budget for the town with no impact on town services. We are able to fund the assessment request from the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School System at 100% of their requested amount, as well as fund a substantial increase in our Bristol-Plymouth Voc-Tech assessment as we have seen the number of students from our community who make use of their exceptional programs skyrocket. Luckily, the DR assessment is only \$177k higher than last year's DESE-imposed assessment figure, so this year we do not have the pressure of a substantial increase in our regional school system assessment to attempt to fund within our levy limit increase, as we have seen in prior years. We thank the school administration for working hard to contain costs under these circumstances.

One final note in closing: Most of the articles on the warrant you will recognize as the usual budgetary and "housekeeping" articles. However, there is one capital request from the fire department to purchase a new fire engine. Those of you who have attended Town Meeting in the past will remember at our last meeting we placed \$400k into capital stabilization for this very purpose. The article before you will use those funds (and a little more) to purchase the new engine, which is the last major piece of apparatus our department needs at this time. There is also an article to place any funds received from insurance settlements related to the Council on Aging fire into a special account earmarked for expenses related to rebuilding the Senior Center. We ask you to please support these articles.

As in prior years, the Finance Committee will host a “Financial Summit” (this year via Zoom) to review the warrant and our recommendations, which will be recorded for playback on Rehoboth TV channel 9. This year the Financial Summit is scheduled for Tuesday, November 24^h at 7pm. Watch the town website for the posting notice containing the details on how you can join the meeting remotely, should you have any questions.

For the Finance Committee,
Michael P. Deignan
Chairman

**REMINDER
FINANCIAL SUMMIT MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2020
AT 7 PM
VIA ZOOM**

A note from the Moderator:

This year, I am introducing to our agenda a new procedure called the “Consent Agenda” that has been adopted by Town Meetings across the Commonwealth. The purpose of the Consent Agenda is to save you time by dispensing with the reading of and voting on individual articles that can be expected to pass overwhelmingly and instead, voting on them all together with one vote.

In selecting articles for the Consent Agenda, I have used the following criteria:

1. **The article must be a routine article that has appeared regularly in recent years.**
2. **The meaning of the article and the recommendation of the Warrant Committee must be clearly explained in the Warrant.**
3. **It must be reasonable to expect that the Warrant Committee recommendation for the article would pass with no controversy.**

The Consent Agenda will help streamline the meeting so we can focus and discuss other articles within the Warrant.

Thank you in advance for your time and support.

Sincerely,

William Cute
Town Moderator
December, 2020

CONSENT AGENDA

By Moderator: In order to expedite the consideration of routine items, Articles 1-6 , 11-12 and Article 15 will be considered for approval in a single vote, without debate. I will read each article's number and a description, and if seven members of the Meeting rise to say "HOLD," then the item will be removed so that it may be debated in the normal course. The remaining articles will be moved as printed in the warrant.

ARTICLE 1: SET SALARIES AND COMPENSATION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

ARTICLE 2: BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE PAYMENT

ARTICLE 3: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION BUDGET & APPROPRIATION OF MONIES FROM COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUND ANNUAL REVENUES

ARTICLE 4: APPROPRIATE FUNDS FROM NETWORK TRANSPORTATION RESERVE RECEIPT (NTRR) FUND

ARTICLE 5: AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS OF A PRIOR FISCAL YEAR

ARTICLE 6: AUTHORIZE REVOLVING ACCOUNT EXPENDITURES

ARTICLE 11: BOARD OF HEALTH TRANSFER STATION OFFSET RECEIPTS

ARTICLE 12: ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

ARTICLE 15: ANNUAL TOWN SURPLUS EQUIPMENT AUCTION AUTHORIZATION

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 Ramada Inn in Seekonk, MA, on Tuesday, December 1 2020, at 7:00 p.m. to act on the following **Annual Town Meeting** articles:

ARTICLE 1: SET SALARIES AND COMPENSATION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

SUBMITTED BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary and compensation of the elected officials of the Town, as provided by the Massachusetts General Law 41, §108 for Fiscal Year 2021 as follows:

Board of Assessors (per person)	\$17,879
Board of Selectmen (per person)	\$ 2,500
Town Clerk	\$78,615
Town Collector	\$42,024
Town Treasurer	\$43,054
Town Moderator	\$ 200
Tree Warden	\$25,315

Or to take any other action relative thereto.

Approved **Disapproved**

Finance Committee Recommends: Approval

Comments: These amounts are the same as were discussed in the FY21 budget review process by both the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee.

ARTICLE 2: BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE PAYMENT

SUBMITTED BY: TOWN TREASURER

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$87,843.00 from Solar Revenue Fund for the annual payment of principal and interest on the Bond Anticipation Note for the 2018 purchase of 2 South Old Anawan Street.

Approved **Disapproved**

Finance Committee Recommends: Approval

Source of Funds: Solar Revenue Fund

Comments: In 2018 Town Meeting approved the purchase of land adjacent to the Public Safety Building. The source of funds approved for the purchase was the Solar Revenue Fund. Using these funds avoids any tax increase related to this acquisition. This represents payment 3 of 4.

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.

ARTICLE 5: AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS OF A PRIOR FISCAL YEAR

SUBMITTED BY: POLICE DEPARTMENT

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the payment of bills from the previous year.

Vendor Name	Account Number	Purpose	Amount
Training Force USA	012103-57140	Training	\$299.00

___ **Approved** ___ **Disapproved** **Finance Committee Recommends: Approval**
Source of Funds: Taxation

Comments: Invoice was submitted by vendor on 10/16/2019 for training that took place on 11/3/2017.

ARTICLE 6: AUTHORIZE REVOLVING ACCOUNTS EXPENDITURES

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the total expenditures for the following revolving funds pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44 Section 53E ½ for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 to be expended in accordance with the bylaws heretofore approved.

FUND	Approved Total Expenditures
Parks Commission	\$15,000
Town Events Committee	\$50,000
Conservation Commission	\$75,000
Tree Warden	\$10,000
Palmer River Improvements and Herring Regulation	\$ 3,500
Agricultural Commission	\$ 7,500
Fire Department	\$50,000
Town Events Committee	\$50,000
Hornbine School Association Committee	\$10,000

Or take any other action relative thereto.

___ **Approved** ___ **Disapproved** **Finance Committee Recommends: Approval**

Comments: Approval of this article will re-authorize the funds to be expended by the board, department, etc. as outlined in the chart.

ARTICLE 7: FISCAL YEAR 2021 TOWN BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – ACCEPTANCE OF REPORT

SUBMITTED BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

To see if the Town will vote to receive the Report of the Finance Committee, and to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$10,792,382 to defray the expenses of Town government for the ensuing fiscal year and to make all appropriations therefore, or take any other action relative thereto.

Approved Disapproved

**Finance Committee Recommends: Approval
Source of Funds: Taxation**

Comments: In February and March of 2020 the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee worked in conjunction with all department heads to build a zero-based budget for Fiscal Year 2021. This article will fund the department budgets as reviewed and decided upon by the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee, with no reductions in town services currently anticipated as a result of the pandemic at this time.

ARTICLE 8: FISCAL YEAR 2021 DIGHTON REHOBOTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET AND ASSESSMENT

SUBMITTED BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, no more than the sum of \$19,479,237 as recommended by the Finance Committee, to defray the costs and expenses of the Dighton Rehoboth Regional School District for the ensuing fiscal year, with said limitation imposed due to the fact that any increase of such sum would result in appropriations beyond the levy limit, resulting in the requirement to make drastic cuts in services to other municipal departments, including but not limited to public safety, public works, library services and general government, unless any increase in such sum is contingent on an override under the provisions of Proposition 2 1/2, so called; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Approved Disapproved

**Finance Committee Recommends: Approval
Source of Funds: Taxation**

Comments: On October 27, 2020 the Dighton Regional School Committee voted a budget of \$45,266,316; and an assessment representing Rehoboth’s share of \$19,479,237. This amount includes operating, capital, and transportation.

ARTICLE 9: FISCAL YEAR 2021 BRISTOL PLYMOUTH REGIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL BUDGET

SUBMITTED BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$791,501 as recommended by the Finance Committee, to defray the costs and expenses of the Bristol Plymouth Regional Technical School District for the ensuing fiscal year; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Approved Disapproved

**Finance Committee Recommends: Approval
Source of Funds: Taxation**

Comments: The total FY21 Bristol Plymouth Regional Technical High School Assessment is \$791,501 and represents an increase due to student enrollment being more than last year. Bristol Plymouth's assessment to the Town represents the state mandated minimum contribution, plus a small transportation charge and a minor capital assessment.

ARTICLE 10: FISCAL YEAR 2021 BRISTOL COUNTY AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL
SUBMITTED BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$62,842 as recommended by the Finance Committee, to defray the costs and expenses of the Bristol County Agricultural High School for the ensuing fiscal year; or to take any other action relative thereto.

 Approved Disapproved

Finance Committee Recommends: Approval
Source of Funds: Taxation

Comments: The Bristol County Agricultural High School assesses the Town of Rehoboth an annual tuition based upon the actual number of students who choose to enroll that year. The appropriation requested herein is based upon the actual number of Rehoboth students expected to enroll in FY21. Currently we have 26 students enrolled at a per student tuition cost of \$2,417. The Finance Committee recommends an appropriation of \$62,842 to fund the FY21 tuition.

ARTICLE 11: BOARD OF HEALTH TRANSFER STATION OFFSET RECEIPTS
SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF HEALTH

To see if the Town will vote to approve the financial report for the Rehoboth Transfer Station for Fiscal Year 2021 as submitted by the Board of Health; and further, to see if the Town will vote 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 2021 expenditures shall be limited to \$138,000.00. All expenditures are to be authorized by the Board of Health, or take any other action relative thereto.

 Approved Disapproved

Finance Committee Recommends: Approval

Comments: The operation of the Transfer Station is estimated to cost \$138,000.00 in FY21 and will be funded by pay-as-you-throw fees. This amount may be reduced if not approved by the Division of Local Services.

ARTICLE 12: ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS
SUBMITTED BY: AMBULANCE COMMITTEE/ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY/HOUSING
AUTHORITY/BOARD OF HEALTH

To see if the Town will vote to receive the reports of the Rehoboth Ambulance Committee, Blanding Library, Housing Authority and Board of Health, or take any other action relative thereto.

 Approved Disapproved

ARTICLE 13: RECONSTRUCTION OF SENIOR CENTER WITH INSURANCE PROCEEDS

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the receipt reserved for the appropriation account to rebuild the Senior Center, including but not limited to building reconstruction, furniture, and equipment replacement, septic replacement, parking lot construction, landscaping and any and all costs associated therewith; or take any other action in relation thereto.

 Approved Disapproved

**Board of Selectmen Recommends: Approval
Source of Funds: Insurance Proceeds**

Comments: The Town’s Senior Center was destroyed by fire on 9/12/2020 and, as a result, the Town will receive insurance proceeds to rebuild. The insurance proceeds will be placed in a receipt reserved for appropriation account. The Town Meeting pursuant to law must appropriate the insurance proceeds to permit the use of those funds for the reconstruction of the Senior Center.

ARTICLE 14: CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - FIRE ENGINE

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, from Capital Reserve Fund up to \$600,000 for the purchase of one Pierce Saber 1500 GPM Pumper truck.

 Approved Disapproved

**Finance Committee Recommends: Approval
Source of Funds: Capital Stabilization Account**

Comments: A quote for \$587,463 has been provided to replace Engine 1. Engine 1 is approximately 20-years old and is the most used vehicle in the fleet. It is showing its age and consumes a significant portion of the yearly repair and maintenance account. The vehicle will take approximately one year to manufacture. This purchase will be funded through the Capital Stabilization Account and **will not** result in a tax increase.

ARTICLE 15: ANNUAL TOWN SURPLUS EQUIPMENT AUCTION AUTHORIZATION

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the disposal of surplus Town equipment from any Town department by bid or auction pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30B, or by donation or other disposition pursuant to applicable law, or take any other action relative thereto.

 Approved Disapproved

Finance Committee Recommends: Approval

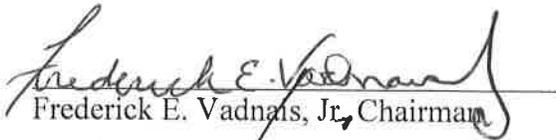
Comments: It is the custom of the Town to dispose of surplus equipment and vehicles that have been deemed unusable at least once a year. This article, if approved, would authorize the Board of Selectmen to create a list of “surplus property” and allow the Board to dispose of items in a manner consistent with the language in the Article.

AND TO TRANSACT OTHER BUSINESS AS MAY LEGALLY COME BEFORE SAID MEETING

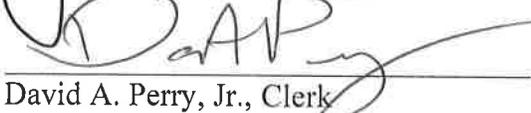
And you are hereby directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof in the Office of the Town Clerk and in not less than three other public places in each of the three precincts of the Town seven (7) days at least before the day fixed for the meeting.

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

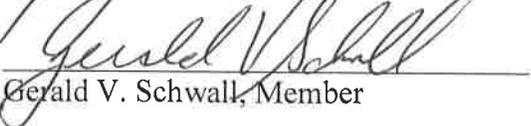
Given under our hands this 16th day of November in the year two thousand twenty.


Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Chairman


James Muri, Vice Chairman


David A. Perry, Jr., Clerk


Michael R. Costello, Member


Gerald V. Schwall, Member

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

WARRANT

**ANNUAL MEETING
REHOBOTH WATER DISTRICT
DECEMBER 1, 2020**

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Town of Rehoboth
Bristol, ss.

To Any of the Constables of the Town of

Rehoboth: Greetings:

During these very trying times we the members of the Water Commission would like to withhold from submitting a report at this year's Annual Town Meeting. We are trying our best to help do our part in keeping our Town Meeting as short and safe for all Towns' people involved.

This letter was voted and unanimously approved on November 6, 2020 during a duly posted Water Commission Meeting.

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting up attested copies in two public places in the Town of Rehoboth seven (7) days at least before the day fixed for the meeting.

Given under our hands this 11th day of November in the year two thousand twenty.

REHOBOTH WATER COMMISSIONERS



Joseph Nunes,
Chairman

Town of Rehoboth
Rehoboth, Massachusetts 02769

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

Important
Official Notice of:
December 1, 2020 Annual Town Meeting

BOX HOLDER
Rehoboth, Massachusetts 02769

Please bring this Warrant with you to the
Annual Town Meeting

Ramada Inn
Ballroom
213 Taunton Avenue
Seekonk, MA 02771
Tuesday, December 1, 2020