



TOWN OF WEBSTER

Office of the Town Clerk

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN OF WEBSTER

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

MAY 12, 2025

This is to certify that the following articles were acted on at the Annual Town Meeting held on Monday, May 12, 2025. There was a quorum of 165 registered voters present.

Voters of the Town of Webster assembled in the Park Avenue Elementary School Cafetorium, 58 Park Avenue, Webster, Massachusetts on Monday, May 12, 2025. The Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. as a quorum was present.

Worcester, ss

To either of the Constables in the County aforesaid:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required and directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Webster aforesaid who are qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet in the Park Avenue Elementary School, 58 Park Avenue, in said Webster on **Monday, May 12, 2025 at 7:00 PM** then and there to act on the following Articles to wit:

A motion was made to dispense with the reading of the warrant and that the Moderator may extend the floor to Town Management and staff and other non-voters provided that they must be recognized by the Moderator. The motion received a second and a unanimous YES voice vote.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting and resume the Special Town Meeting and to resume the Annual Town Meeting at the end of the Special Town Meeting. The motion was approved with a voice vote. The Annual Town Meeting was recessed and the Special Town Meeting was resumed.

A motion was made and seconded to resume the Annual Town Meeting at 7:20 p.m. The motion received approval with a unanimous yes voice vote.

ARTICLE 1. REPORTS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OR BOARD OF SELECTMEN

To hear and act upon the report and recommendations of the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee; or take any other action thereon.

Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen

Motion made that the Town vote to approve the Finance Committee Report. The motion received a second and the Article was approved with a vote of 120 Yes votes and 7 No votes.

ARTICLE 2: AUTHORIZE REVOLVING FUNDS SPENDING LIMITS

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c 44, §53E1/2, as most recently amended, to set FY 2026 spending limits for such Revolving Funds as follows:

REVOLVING FUND	FY2026 FUND SPENDING LIMIT
Senior Center (Fund 3516)	\$ 8,000
Library (Fund 3519)	\$ 3,500
Recreation (Fund 3521)	\$ 168,000
Composting Facility (Fund 3525)	\$ 13,000
Historical Sign (Fund 3529)	\$ 5,000
Nuisance Properties (Fund 3530)	\$ 60,000
Code Enforcement (Fund 3534)	\$ 603,250

; or take any action thereon.

Sponsored by the Town Administrator

Motion made that the Town vote to approve the article as presented. The motion received a second and the article passed with a vote of 118 Yes votes and 12 No votes.

ARTICLE 3: FY 2026 GENERAL FUND ANNUAL BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to fix the compensation of elected officials, provide for a reserve fund, and determine what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate including appropriations from any available funds to defray the charges and expenses of the Town including debt and interest for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026; or take any other action thereon.

Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen

Motion made that the Town vote to raise and appropriate an omnibus budget in the sum of \$64,791,959 an amount sufficient to fix the compensation of elected officials, provide for a reserve fund, and to defray the charges and expenses of the Town including debt and interest for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026. Said sum to be raised as follows:

Funding Sources	Amount
Property Tax, State Aid, Local and Other Receipts	\$ 61,573,128
Sewer Fund (Indirect Costs)	\$ 840,339
Water Fund (Indirect Costs)	\$ 633,770
SWCCC (Dudley Indirect Costs)	\$ 129,722
Donation from Fels Foundation for the Police & Fire Stations	\$ 200,000
Transfer from Waterway Improvements Fund	\$ 15,000
Transfer from Sale of Filmer Building	\$ 45,000
Transfer from Town Hall Stabilization Fund	\$ 55,000
Free Cash to reduce the tax rate	\$ 1,300,000
Total of Funding Sources	\$ 64,791,959

The motion received a second and the article passed with 118 Yes votes and 26 No votes.

ARTICLE 4: FY 2026 SEWER ANNUAL BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate and transfer from any available funds a sum sufficient to operate the Sewer Enterprise Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026; or take any other action thereon.

Sponsored by the Water Sewer Commission and Board of Selectmen

Motion made that the Town vote to appropriate an omnibus budget in the sum of \$4,822,180, an amount sufficient to operate the Sewer Enterprise Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 and that \$4,822,180 be raised as follows: \$250,000 from retained earnings and \$4,572,180 from department receipts. The motion received a second. The article received 116 Yes votes and 18 No votes and was approved.

ARTICLE 5: FY 2026 WATER ANNUAL BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate and transfer from any available funds a sum sufficient to operate the Water Enterprise Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026; or take any other action thereon.

Sponsored by the Water Sewer Commission and Board of Selectmen

Motion made and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate an omnibus budget in the sum of \$3,835,900, an amount sufficient to operate the Water Enterprise Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 and that \$3,835,900 be raised as follows: \$250,000 from retained earnings \$3,585,900 from department receipts. The article passed with 115 Yes votes and 11 No votes.

ARTICLE 6: AUTHORIZE SHORT-TERM BORROWINGS

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the consent of the Board of Selectmen, to temporarily borrow a note or notes, or make an inter-fund advance from available funds, in anticipation of revenue from taxation, bonds, or grants, and to repay said sums within the current fiscal cycle; or take any other action thereon.

Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen

Motion made that the Town vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the consent of the Board of Selectmen, to temporarily borrow a note or notes, or make an inter-fund advance from available funds, in anticipation of revenue from taxation, bonds, or grants, and to repay said sums within the current fiscal cycle; or take any other action thereon. The motion received a second and the article was approved with 119 Yes votes and 18 No votes.

ARTICLE 7. CREATE BUDGET FOR CABLE ACCESS

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from cable PEG Access account the following Cable Access Budget in accordance with General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53F $\frac{3}{4}$; or take any other action thereon.

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
Salaries	3702-510000	\$ 42,000
Other Charges	3702-570000	\$ 50,000
Total		\$ 92,000

Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen

Motion made and seconded that the Town vote to approve the article as presented. The article received 108 Yes votes and 29 No votes and was passed as presented.

ARTICLE 8. AMEND SECTION 334-2: REQUEST FOR BUILDING NUMBERS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Webster Bylaws, Chapter 334 Buildings, Numbering of by deleting the existing Section 334-2 Request for building numbers and replacing it as follows:

The Selectmen shall review and approve a policy developed by the Assessor and the 911 Municipal Liaison that ensures consistent building number practices are utilized. The policy shall take into account best practices for street numbering for emergency response purposes along with ensuring any compliance that is required as part of the Commonwealth's statewide 911 system. The Assessor shall be responsible for issuing building numbers in compliance with the approved policy.

Or take any other action thereon.

Sponsored by the Town Administrator

The Town Moderator informed the voters that this bylaw change should have required a recommendation from the Bylaw Committee but as the Town currently does not have a Bylaw Committee, hence the previous vote to eliminate the Bylaw Committee, he therefore allowed the article to move forward.

Motion made that the Town vote to approve the article as presented. The motion received a second and the article passed as presented receiving 129 Yes votes and 9 No votes.

ARTICLE 9. WEBSTER LAKE MAINTENANCE FUNDING

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$25,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of funding Webster Lake maintenance; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsored by the Town Administrator

Motion made that the Town vote to approve the article as presented in the warrant. The article received 129 Yes votes and 13 No votes. The article was approved.

ARTICLE 10: AMEND ZONING MAP

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Webster Zoning Map referenced in Section 650-13 of the code of the Town of Webster to re-zone two parcels of land from the current zoning designation of Industrial to Business, District 4 (B-4) and to be designated within the Redevelopment Overlay District (ROD), said parcels being located at and known as 21 Pearl Street, shown on the Town Assessor's Map as Parcel ID 15-A-5-0, containing approximately 2.18 acres, and 35 Pearl Street, shown on the Town Assessor's Map as Parcel ID 15-A-1-0, containing approximately 5.10 acres, both parcels owned now or formerly by 21 Pearl, LLC or take any action thereon.

Citizen Petition

The sponsor of the article, Rita Flagg of 150½ North Main Street, made a motion to approve Article 10 as presented in the Warrant. The motion received a second. The Article failed to pass with 41 Yes votes and 99 No votes.

ARTICLE 11: AMEND ZONING MAP

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Webster Zoning Bylaw referenced in Section 650-25 of the code of the Town of Webster, entitled "District 11, Redevelopment Overlay District", by

(i) Revising Part G, "Uses Allowed by Special Permit", (1)(g) to read as follows:

(g) Mixed-use building containing multi-family units, provided that some portion of the building shall contain retail, personal services, or professional or business office uses.

(ii) Revising Part K, "Off-Street Parking", by inserting a new subpart (4) to read:

(4) For multi-family housing and for Mixed-use buildings, as allowed by Special Permit in the ROD, the Planning Board may modify the application off-street parking and landscaping regulations of Section 650-39.

Or take any action thereon.

Citizen Petition

The Sponsor of the Article, Rita Flagg of 150½ North Main Street, made a motion to approve Article 11 as presented in the Warrant but strike Section ii regarding revisions on Part K concerning Off Street Parking. The motion received a second.

A motion was made and seconded to pass over Article 11 for more information. The motion to pass over for more information received 92 Yes votes and 45 No votes. The motion to pass over for more information was approved.

There was a motion and a second to dissolve the Annual Town Meeting at 7:56 p.m. The motion received a unanimous yes voice vote to dissolve the Annual Town Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,



Linda M. Krupsky
Town Clerk