



TOWN OF WEBSTER

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS TOWN OF WEBSTER SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT MAY 12, 2025

This is to certify that the following articles were acted on at the Special 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 Special Town Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. as a quorum was present. The Moderator announced that the Town's Fire Chief, Brian Hickey, will be retiring at the end of June. He recognized Chief Hickey's 40 plus years as a member of the Webster Fire Department with 15 years serving as Chief. Chief Hickey received a standing ovation and then led the town meeting participants in the Pledge of Allegiance. Town Moderator, Ted Avlas, reviewed the procedures of a town meeting.

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 6:30 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. The Moderator moved on to the articles.

ARTICLE 1. GENERAL FUND PRIOR YEAR BILLS

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from any available funds in the Treasury, a sum sufficient to the Town Administrator Unpaid Bills account for the purpose of funding the payment of prior years' unpaid invoices; or take any other action thereon.

Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen

Amount	Vendor	Account #	Account Description
\$ 39.98	Auto Zone	0121052-524003	Vehicle Maintenance
\$ 118.40	Konica Minolta	0121052-527010	Equipment Rental/Lease
\$ 118.40	Konica Minolta	0121052-527010	Equipment Rental/Lease
\$ 1,505.00	Clough, Harbour & Associates, LLP	0142552-530006	Engineering Services
\$ 1,128.75	Clough, Harbour & Associates, LLP	0142552-530006	Engineering Services
\$ 2,910.56	Total		

Motion made that the Town vote to transfer from the authorizations listed below totaling \$2,910.56 to the Town Administrator Unpaid Bills account (0112352-579000) for the purpose of funding the payment of prior years' unpaid invoices. The motion received a second and was approved with 119 Yes votes and 4 No votes.

ARTICLE 2. SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND PRIOR YEAR BILLS

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from any available funds in the Treasury, a sum sufficient to the Sewer Unpaid Bills account for the purpose of funding the payment of prior years' unpaid invoices; or take any other action thereon.

Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen

Amount	Vendor	Account #	Account Description
\$ 10,502.29	Xylem	6046052-524000-461	Repairs & Maintenance
\$ 10,502.29	Total		

Motion made that the Town vote to transfer from the authorizations listed below totaling \$10,502.29 to the Sewer Fund Unpaid Bills account (6046052-579000) for the purpose of funding the payment of prior years' unpaid invoices. The motion received a second and the article passed with 125 Yes votes and 5 No votes.

ARTICLE 3. WATER ENTERPRISE FUND PRIOR YEAR BILLS

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from any available funds in the Treasury, a sum sufficient to the Water Unpaid Bills account for the purpose of funding the payment of prior years' unpaid invoices; or take any other action thereon.

Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen

Motion made and seconded that the Town vote to pass over this article. The vote was 111 Yes and 18 No and the article was passed over.

ARTICLE 4. FUND SNOW AND ICE DEFICIT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate and transfer from any available funds in the Treasury, a sum sufficient to the DPW Snow and Ice Supplies Accounts; or take any other action thereon.

Sponsored by the Town Administrator

Motion made that the Town vote to transfer from free cash in the amount of \$250,000 for funding anticipated FY25 snow and ice deficit accounts. The motion received a second. The vote was Yes – 124 and No – 10. The article was approved.

ARTICLE 5. SPECIAL EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION DEFICIT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate and transfer from any available funds in the Treasury, a sum sufficient to the Special Education Transportation Accounts; or take any other action thereon.

Sponsored by the School Superintendent

Motion made that the Town vote to transfer from free cash the amount of \$400,000 for purposes of this article. The motion received a second and the article was approved with a vote of 107 – Yes and 22 – No.

ARTICLE 6. FY25 GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE DEFICIT

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from available funds in the Treasury, a sum sufficient to the General Liability and Insurance fund for the purpose of paying FY2025 deficit, or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsored by the Town Administrator

Motion made and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from free cash the amount of \$70,260 to fund the FY25 deficit of the general liability

insurance account (0194552-574001). The article received 113 Yes votes and 16 No votes and the article passed.

ARTICLE 7. APPROPRIATION TO STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the amount of \$550,000.00 to the Town's the Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsored by the Town Administrator

Motion made that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash, \$550,000 to the Stabilization Fund. The motion received a second. The vote was 120 Yes votes and 16 No votes and the article was approved.

ARTICLE 8. APPROPRIATION FOR TOWN CAPITAL PROJECTS

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from free cash, a sum sufficient for the purpose of funding capital purchases/projects as listed in the table below, including all costs incidental and related thereto, or take any other action thereon.

Department	Project	Amount
Town Administrator	Inventory of Town Buildings/Structures	
	\$ 50,000	
Town Administrator	Town Hall West (Church St.) Entrance Renovation	
	\$ 60,000	
Town Administrator	Town Hall Front (Main St.) Entrance Renovation	
	\$ 160,000	
Town Administrator and Library Walkway	Town Hall East (Library Side) Entrance Renovation	
	\$ 120,000	
Police Department	Cruiser/SUV Replacement Plan - 3rd Vehicle	\$
90,000		
Police Department	Replace 20 Station Security Cameras	\$ 35,000
Police Department	Replace 10 Portable Radios	\$ 53,000
Police Department	Server Room AC Unit	\$ 25,000
Police Department	Replace Building Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS)	
System		
\$ 70,000		
Police Department	In Car Cruiser Cameras	\$ 35,000
Highway Department	Plow for 10-Wheeler	\$ 65,000
Highway Department	F350 Pickup	\$ 85,000
School Department	PAE Electrical Controller Head Replacement	\$
30,000		
School Department	BHS Tennis Courts	\$ 40,000
School Department	BHS & WMS Exterior Basketball Courts	\$ 50,000

Sponsored by the Town Administrator and School Superintendent

Motion made that the Town vote to transfer from free cash \$968,000 for purposes of this article. The article received a second and the vote was 104 – Yes and 25 – No. The article was approved.

ARTICLE 9. APPROPRIATION FOR SEWER CAPITAL PROJECTS

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Sewer retained earnings, a sum sufficient for the purpose of funding capital purchases/projects as listed in the table below, including all costs incidental and related thereto; or take any other action thereon.

Project	Amount
Wastewater Plant Replacement Bar Rack Screens and Teeth	\$ 48,000
HACH All Weather Automatic Sampler Upgrade	\$ 8,500
HACH Online pH Sensors for Aeration	\$ 6,000
HACH Online Nitrate/NH3 Sensors for Aeration	\$ 12,000

Sponsored by the Water Sewer Commission and Board of Selectmen

Motion made and seconded that the Town vote to transfer \$74,500 from Sewer retained earnings for the purposes of this article. The article received 122 Yes votes and 12 No votes. The article passed.

ARTICLE 10. APPROPRIATION FOR WATER CAPITAL PROJECTS

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Water retained earnings, a sum sufficient for the purpose of funding capital purchases/projects as listed in the table below, including all costs incidental and related thereto; or take any other action thereon.

Project	Amount
Water Main Design (Worcester Rd. & Old Worcester Rd.)	\$ 250,000
Sponsored by the Water Sewer Commission and Board of Selectmen	

Motion made that the Town vote to transfer \$250,000 from Water retained earnings for the purposes of this article. The motion received a second. The vote was 118 Yes and 20 No and the article passed.

ARTICLE 11. WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AERATION SYSTEM PHASE 2 CONSTRUCTION

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$5,200,000 for the purpose of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Aeration System Phase 2 project, and all related costs, and that to meet said appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, be authorized to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Sections 7 and 8, Chapter 29C, and/or any other

enabling authority and to issue bonds and notes therefor; or to take any action thereon.

Sponsored by the Water/Sewer Commission

Motion made and seconded that the Town appropriate \$5,200,000 for the purpose of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Aeration System Phase 2 project, and all related costs; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Sections 7 or 8, or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds and notes therefor; that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to contract for and expend any federal or state aid available for the project; and that the Board of Selectmen, the Water Commissioners, and the Water and Sewer Superintendent, are each authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this project.

The Moderator reminded the voters that the article is a borrowing article and requires a 2/3rds vote for passage.

The vote was 107 Yes votes (82%) and 23 No votes (18%) and the article passed.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Special Town Meeting at 7:00 p.m. to resume immediately following adjournment of the Annual Town Meeting. The motion received unanimous approval with a voice vote.

A motion was made and seconded to open the Annual Town Meeting at 7:00 p.m. The motion was approved with a unanimous voice vote.

A motion was made and seconded to recess the Annual Town Meeting and resume the Special Town Meeting. The motion received approval with a unanimous voice vote. The Annual Town Meeting was recessed and the Special Town Meeting resumed.

ARTICLE 12. LOCAL ACCEPTANCE OF C. 200A, S 9A DISPOSITION OF UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

To see if the Town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Law Chapter 200A, Section 9A, or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsored by the Town Administrator

Motion made that the Town vote to accept Massachusetts General Law Chapter 200A, Section 9A. The motion received a second. The article was approved with 126 Yes votes and 12 No votes.

ARTICLE 13: SPECIAL ACT TO MAKE TOWN CLERK APPOINTED

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Webster to pursue a special legislative act to amend the Webster Town Charter by eliminating Article 3, Section 5 providing for the election of Town Clerk; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsored by the Town Administrator

Motion made and seconded that the Town vote to approve the article as presented. The article received 64 Yes votes and 74 No votes and did not pass.

ARTICLE 14: ELIMINATE BYLAW COMMITTEE, SECTION 14-1

To see if the Town will vote to eliminate Section 14-1 of the General Bylaws thereby eliminating the Bylaw Committee, take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsored by the Town Administrator

Motion made and seconded that the Town vote to approve the article as presented. The article received 112 Yes votes and 29 votes and was approved.

ARTICLE 15: APPROPRIATE FROM VARIOUS ACCOUNT BALANCES TO FUND RENOVATIONS AT TOWN HALL

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the following surplus fund balances in the amount of \$168,820.56

Fund

Number

Fund Name/Description Surplus

Balance

5003 124R High Street Demo

\$ 137,500.00

5014 Animal Shelter Cameras \$ 696.15

5015 Boat Docks \$ 3,237.23

5016 Police Vehicle \$ 15,644.18

5039 Breathing Apparatus \$ 11,743.00

to fund renovations at Town Hall from the Town Hall Capital Improvements Fund (Fund 5050), including all costs and related thereto, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored by the Town Administrator

Motion made and seconded that the Town vote to approve the article as presented. The article passed with 120 Yes votes and 23 No votes.

A motion was made by Kaitlin Morin of 55 Bates Point Road to reconsider Article 13 based on the Massachusetts Conflict of Interest Law. The motion received a second. The Moderator called for a brief recess to confer with Town Counsel. The Moderator informed the Town Meeting attendees that he determined that the motion to reconsider Article 13 did not meet the requirements for reconsideration and was not accepted.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Special Town Meeting at 7:18 p.m. The motion received unanimous approval with a voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Linda M. Krupsky
Town Clerk