

**2023 Spring Annual Town Meeting  
Fine and Performing Arts Center  
Marshall Lebowitz Town Meeting Room,  
Natick High School  
April 27, 2023, Second Session**

The Second Session of the 2023 Spring Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Town Moderator, Frank W. Foss, who declared a quorum present. The Moderator welcomed residents, taxpayers, town officials, Town Meeting Members and interested parties to the Second Session of 2023 Spring Annual Town Meeting. The Moderator asked that all recently elected or appointed members of Town Meeting stand to take the oath of office; after the oath of office the Moderator asked the audience to remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence in recognition of all the men and women serving on our behalf throughout the world.

The Moderator introduced the officials present for the meeting: Diane Packer, Town Clerk; Linda Wollschlager, Finance Committee Chair; Todd Gillenwater, Finance Committee Vice Chair; Karis North, Town Counsel, James Errickson, Town Administrator; and Bruce Evans, Select Board Chair. Town Meeting Members may sit anywhere in the auditorium, allowing for social distancing. Gloria Huang will operate the slides and Jeff Horan, a representative from Option Technologies, will operate the electronic voting system.

The Moderator reviewed the general rules and procedures of Town Meeting which had been accepted at a previous session of 2023 Spring Annual Town Meeting. He indicated that all residents and taxpayers of the town and town officers and employees, whether or not residents, have the same right to speak as Town Meeting Members; however, they do not have the right to submit motions for consideration at Town Meeting, nor vote on any matter before Town Meeting. Non-residents may only speak at Town Meeting after approval by Town Meeting Members. The proceedings of Town Meetings shall be governed by *Town Meeting Time*, the Town of Natick Home Rule Charter, the Natick By-Laws and the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

No person shall speak upon any debatable motion more than once when any other person desires to be heard, nor more than twice on the same question without permission of Town Meeting; and no person shall speak more than five (5) minutes at one time without permission of Town Meeting. All motions offered for the consideration of Town Meeting shall be in writing if required by the Moderator; and all motions involving the expenditure of money shall be in writing when required by any Town Meeting Member. Written motions shall be presented to the Moderator at least 48 hours in advance. Any person having a monetary or equitable interest in any matter under discussion at a Town Meeting, and any person employed by another having such an interest, shall disclose the fact of his/her interest or employment before speaking on the matter.

Mr. Errickson, Town Administrator; Mr. Townsend, Deputy Town Administrator for Finance; Dr. Anna Nolin, Superintendent of Natick Public Schools; Mr. Jonathan Evans, Superintendent of the South Middlesex Regional School District gave presentations on the FY 24 budget.

The meeting will begin with Article 7. Motion B.

**ARTICLE 7: Omnibus Budget Articles (Town Administrator)**

**Town**

To determine what sum of money the Town will appropriate and raise, transfer from available funds for the operation of the government of the Town of Natick, including debt and interest, during Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023) and to provide for a reserve fund for Fiscal Year 2023 and to see what budgets for Fiscal Year 2023 will be reduced to offset said additional appropriations;

To determine what sum of money the Town will appropriate and raise, or transfer from available funds for the operation of the government of the Town of Natick, including debt and interest, during Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024) and to provide for a reserve fund for Fiscal Year 2024;

**Libraries**

To determine what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, for the maintenance and operation of the Morse Institute Library, for Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023);

To determine what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, for the maintenance and operation of the Morse Institute Library, for Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024);

To determine what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, for the maintenance and operation of the Bacon Free Library, for Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023);

To determine what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, for the maintenance and operation of the Bacon Free Library, for Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024); or otherwise act thereon.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Quantum of Vote</b>	<b>Date</b>
Motion A	Education & Learning	12-0-0	4/11/2023
Motion B	Public Safety	11-0-1	4/11/2023
Motion C	General Government	12-0-0	4/11/2023
Motion D	Shared Expenses	12-0-0	4/11/2023
Motion E1	Water & Sewer Enterprise	12-0-0	4/11/2023
Motion E2	Water & Sewer Indirect Costs	12-0-0	4/11/2023
Motion F1	Sassamon Golf Enterprise	12-0-0	4/11/2023
Motion F2	Sassamon Golf Indirect Costs	12-0-0	4/11/2023

Motion B (Requires a majority vote): Moved by Mr. Gillenwater, seconded by Ms. Wollschlager.

<b>Motions for Article 7, Motion B: Public Safety</b>	
<b>Motion B: Requires Majority Vote</b>	
Move that the Town vote to appropriate the Total Budget Amount shown below for the purpose of operating the Public Safety Departments of the Town, said funds are to be expended under the direction of the Department Head.	
<b>Emergency Management</b>	
Expenses	\$ 45,820
<b>Total Emergency Management</b>	<b>\$ 45,820</b>
<b>Parking Enforcement</b>	
Salaries	\$ 115,455
Expenses	\$ 86,950
<b>Total Parking Enforcement</b>	<b>\$ 202,405</b>
<b>Police</b>	
Salaries	\$ 8,001,272
Expenses	\$ 369,113
<b>Total Police</b>	<b>\$ 8,370,385</b>
<b>Fire</b>	
Salaries	\$ 10,494,245
Expenses	\$ 324,000
<b>Total Fire</b>	<b>\$ 10,818,245</b>
<b>Total Budget Amount for Motion B</b>	<b>\$ 19,436,855</b>
And that the above <u>\$19,436,855</u> be raised from the following sources:	
Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2024	\$ 17,836,855
Parking Meter Revenue	\$ 100,000
ARPA Revenue Replacement	\$ 1,500,000

Mr. Townsend, Deputy Town Administrator for Finance, spoke to each motion under this article. *Motion B under Article 7 passed by majority vote (118-3-0).*

Motion C (Requires a majority vote): Moved by Mr. Gillenwater, seconded by Ms. Wollschlager.

<b>Motions for Article 7, Motion C: General Government</b>	
<b>Motion C: Requires Majority Vote</b>	
Move that the Town vote to appropriate the Total Budget Amount shown below for the purpose of operating the department or multi-member board shown below, said funds are to be expended under the direction of the Department Head, Director or multi-member board. Funds for the Town Report and Legal under the direction of the Town Administrator.	
<b>Public Works</b>	
Salaries	\$ 4,791,379
Expenses	\$ 3,626,636
Municipal Energy	\$ 1,876,500
Snow & Ice	\$ 550,000
<b>Total Public Works</b>	<b>\$ 10,844,515</b>
<b>Community Services</b>	
Salaries	\$ 1,653,225
Expenses	\$ 558,498
<b>Total Community Services</b>	<b>\$ 2,211,723</b>
<b>Board of Health</b>	
Salaries	\$ 633,099
Expenses	\$ 79,850
<b>Total Board of Health</b>	<b>\$ 712,949</b>
<b>Select Board</b>	
Salaries	\$ 1,256,845
Expenses	\$ 473,350
<b>Total Select Board</b>	<b>\$ 1,730,195</b>
<b>Personnel Board</b>	
Expenses	\$ 1,000
<b>Total Personnel Board</b>	<b>\$ 1,000</b>
<b>Town Report</b>	
Expenses	\$ 4,100
<b>Total Town Report</b>	<b>\$ 4,100</b>
<b>Legal</b>	
Expenses	\$ 675,000
<b>Total Legal</b>	<b>\$ 675,000</b>
<b>Finance</b>	
Salaries	\$ 1,471,106
Expenses	\$ 416,740
<b>Total Finance</b>	<b>\$ 1,887,846</b>
Motion continued on next page →	

<b>Information Technology</b>		
Salaries	\$	408,668
Expenses	\$	1,609,930
<b>Total Information Technology</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,018,598</b>
<b>Town Clerk</b>		
Salaries	\$	373,343
Expenses	\$	62,000
<b>Total Town Clerk</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>435,343</b>
<b>Board of Registrars</b>		
Salaries	\$	73,850
Expenses	\$	87,000
<b>Total Board of Registrars</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>160,850</b>
<b>Weights &amp; Measurers</b>		
Salaries	\$	32,908
Expenses	\$	990
<b>Total Weights &amp; Measurers</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>33,898</b>
<b>Community Development</b>		
Salaries	\$	1,076,670
Expenses	\$	86,160
<b>Total Community Development</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,162,830</b>
<b>Committees &amp; Commissions</b>		
Expenses	\$	37,550
<b>Total Committees &amp; Commissions</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>37,550</b>
<b>Affordable Housing Trust</b>		
Expenses	\$	80,000
<b>Total Affordable Housing Trust</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>80,000</b>
<b>Total Budget Amount for Motion C</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>21,996,397</b>
<b>And that the above \$21,996,397 be raised from the following sources:</b>		
Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2024	\$	20,496,397
ARPA Revenue Replacement	\$	1,500,000

Discussion and questions ensued on this budget. Moved by Mr. Grady, seconded by Ms. Keeney to move the question and end debate on the motion. *The motion to move the question and end debate passed by a two-thirds vote (99-20-1). Motion C under Article 7 passed by majority vote (117-5-0).*

Motion D (Requires a majority vote): Moved by Mr. Gillenwater, seconded by Ms. Wollschlager

<b>Motions for Article 7, Motion D: Shared Expenses</b>	
<b>Motion D: Requires Majority Vote</b>	
Move that the Town vote to appropriate the Total Budget Amount shown below for the purpose of funding the accounts and funds shown below, said funds are to be expended under the direction of the following officials or committees: Employee Fringe Benefits – Town Administrator; Property and Liability Insurance – Town Administrator; Contributory Retirement System Pension Liability – Collector/Treasurer; Non Contributory Retirement Pension Liability - Comptroller; Debt Service – Collector/Treasurer; Reserve Fund - Finance Committee; Facilities Management - Town Administrator & Superintendent of Public Schools.	
<b>Employee Fringe</b>	
Other Personnel Services	\$ 19,008,314
Merit / Performance	\$ 150,000
<b>Total Employee Fringe</b>	<b>\$ 19,158,314</b>
<b>Property &amp; Liability Insurance</b>	
Expense	\$ 1,103,212
<b>Total Property &amp; Liability Insurance</b>	<b>\$ 1,103,212</b>
<b>Contributory Retirement</b>	
Pension Assessment	\$ 13,107,143
<b>Total Contributory Retirement</b>	<b>\$ 13,107,143</b>
<b>Non-Contributory Retirement</b>	
Pensions	\$ 20,500
<b>Total Non-Contributory Retirement</b>	<b>\$ 20,500</b>
<b>Debt Service</b>	
Expenses	\$ 16,103,110
<b>Total Debt Service</b>	<b>\$ 16,103,110</b>
<b>Reserve Fund - Finance Committee</b>	
Expenses	\$ 250,000
<b>Total Reserve Fund</b>	<b>\$ 250,000</b>
<b>Facilities Management</b>	
Salaries	\$ 3,516,394
Expenses	\$ 992,800
<b>Total Facilities Management</b>	<b>\$ 4,509,194</b>
<b>Total Budget Amount for Motion D</b>	<b>\$ 54,251,473</b>
And that the above <u>\$54,251,473</u> be raised from the following sources:	
Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2024	\$ 12,580,026
State Aid	\$ 16,325,961
Local Receipts	\$ 16,184,635
Free Cash	\$ 4,464,900
Overlay Surplus	\$ 1,000,000
Golf Course Indirects	\$ 77,756
Water Sewer Indirects	\$ 3,443,771
Other Available Funds	\$ 174,424

Discussion ensued regarding the motion as printed in the book as it did not include text authorizing a specific Town Agent or department head to expend the appropriation. The appropriate text was presented by the Finance Committee in an on-line version of the Finance Committee Recommendation Book, however that corrected motion was not presented in writing to Town Meeting Members as provided in the meeting rules. Discussion ensued on this issue as the printed motions were not correct. Mr. Linehan moved, seconded by Mr. Lista to postpone consideration of Article 7, Motion D until May 2<sup>nd</sup>. *The postponement motion passed by majority vote (69-42-7).*

Motion E1 (Requires a majority vote): Moved by Mr. Gillenwater, seconded by Ms. Wollschlager

<b>Motions for Article 7, Motion E1: Water &amp; Sewer Enterprise</b>	
<b>Motion E1: Requires Majority Vote</b>	
Move that the Town vote to appropriate the Total Budget Amount shown below for the purpose of operating the departments shown under the associated categories, said funds are to be expended under the direction of each Department Head or Director.	
<b>Water &amp; Sanitary Sewer Operations</b>	
Salaries	\$ 2,523,013
Expense	\$ 8,979,575
<b>Total Water &amp; Sanitary Sewer Operations</b>	<b>\$ 11,502,588</b>
<b>Utility Billing</b>	
Salaries	\$ 109,008
Expense	\$ 74,000
<b>Total Utility Billing</b>	<b>\$ 183,008</b>
<b>Fringe Benefits</b>	
Expenses	\$ 989,494
<b>Total Fringe Benefits</b>	<b>\$ 989,494</b>
<b>Water &amp; Sewer Debt Service</b>	
Principal	\$ 2,352,128
Interest	\$ 1,138,642
<b>Total Debt Service</b>	<b>\$ 3,490,770</b>
<b>Water &amp; Sewer Reserve Fund</b>	
Expenses	\$ 200,000
<b>Total Reserve Fund</b>	<b>\$ 200,000</b>
<b>Total Budget Amount for Motion E1</b>	<b>\$ 16,365,860</b>
And that the above \$16,365,860 be raised from the following sources:	
Water Sewer User Fees	\$ 16,365,860

*Motion E1 under Article 7 passed by majority vote (117-2-0).*

Motion E2 (Requires a majority vote): Moved by Mr. Gillenwater, seconded by Ms. Wollschlager

<b>Motions for Article 7, Motion E2: Water &amp; Sewer Indirect Costs</b>	
<b>Motion E2: Requires Majority Vote</b>	
Move that the Town vote to APPROVE the following Water Sewer indirect cost allocations raised in the General Fund:	
<b>Department Allocations</b>	<b>Total</b>
Public Works Administration	\$ 247,710
Engineering	\$ 443,720
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 674,474
Highway, Sanitation, Recycling	\$ 287,488
Facilities	\$ 114,895
Public Safety	\$ 196,950
Finance	\$ 273,016
Town Administration	\$ 272,822
Community Development	\$ 130,498
Information Technology	\$ 210,985
Procurement	\$ 24,133
Human Resources	\$ 6,091
Legal Services	\$ 101,250
Property & Liability Insurance	\$ 413,705
Utilities	\$ 56,535
Vehicle Fuel	\$ 173,565
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,627,837</b>
<b>Water Sewer Staff Performing General Fund Functions</b>	
GIS Services	-\$52,593
W/S Admin. Asst. - DPW	-\$29,101
W/S Admin. Asst. - Collector	-\$60,746
Snow and Removal	-\$56,626
Software Servicing	\$15,000
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>-\$184,066</b>
<b>Total Water and Sewer Indirect Costs</b>	<b>\$ 3,443,771</b>
And that the sum of <u>\$3,443,771</u> appropriated in the General Fund be raised from the following source:	
Water Sewer User Fees	\$ 3,443,771

Town Counsel explained that indirect costs are expended by Town Meeting only, not a specific department. *Motion E2 under Article 7 passed unanimously (118-0-1).*



Motion F1 (Requires a majority vote): Moved by Mr. Gillenwater, seconded by Ms. Wollschlager

Motions for Article 7, Motion F1: Sassamon Golf Enterprise	
<b>Motion F1: Required Majority Vote</b>	
Move that the Town vote to appropriate the Total Budget Amount shown below for the purpose of operating the departments shown under the associated categories, said funds are to be expended under the direction of each Department Head or Director.	
<b>Sassamon Trace Operations</b>	
Salaries	\$ 408,599
Expense	\$ 345,508
<b>Total Sassamon Trace Operations</b>	<b>\$ 754,107</b>
<b>Sassamon Trace Fringe Benefits</b>	
Other Personnel Services	\$ 56,379
Retirement Assessment	\$ 5,337
<b>Total Fringe Benefits</b>	<b>\$ 61,716</b>
<b>Sassamon Trace Debt Service</b>	
Principal	\$ 60,120
Interest	\$ 19,172
<b>Total Debt Service</b>	<b>\$ 79,292</b>
<b>Golf Reserve Fund</b>	
Expenses	\$ 20,000
<b>Total Reserve Fund</b>	<b>\$ 20,000</b>
<b>Total Budget Amount for Motion F1</b>	<b>\$ 915,115</b>
And that the above \$915,115 be raised from the following sources:	
Golf User Fees	\$ 915,115

Moved by Mr. Linehan, seconded by Mr. Williamson to postpone consideration of Motion F1 under Article 7 until Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. *The postponement motion failed (52-58-4).* Mr. Sidney moved, seconded by Mr. Gath to adjourn. *The motion to adjourn passed by majority vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM until Tuesday, May 2, 2023.*

A record of the Second Session of  
2023 Spring Annual Town Meeting  
April 27, 2023

  
Diane Packer, Town Clerk